

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER.....

In taking advantage of this being my first Newsletter as Chairman, I would like to publicly thank all of my fellow Councillors for the time they freely give to our Parish. Though, special thanks go to my Vice Chairman Noel Hindmarch and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the various committees for their unfailing hard work.

As Chairmen of the Parish Council we all think of what mark we can leave during our tenure. Always key is to steer the Council through the various changes and challenges that inevitably arise, and to leave the Council in as strong a position as we found it. Rarely do we have the opportunity to preside over significant changes within the Parish.

However, I count myself privileged to be in the Chair with two major projects running within the Parish. Our Allotments Committee has been working hard for several years to identify and provide the Parishes first Allotments. They are close to achieving their goals and subject to planning permission and further negotiations we hope to see success this year.

Additionally, as a Parish we have never had a cemetery. 50 years have passed since the Parish financially contributed to Ringwood Town Council for use of their cemetery.

Currently residents have to pay at least double due to being out of area. This I find unacceptable and have therefore, with the Clerks assistance, set about finding a suitable location within the Parish to establish a Woodland Burial.

To date we have found a location and are in discussions with the land owner to explore the provision of a burial ground to be operated by the Parish Council. There is a long way to go with planning, hydrology reports and not least agreeing terms with the land owner. We are making good

progress and will keep the Parish updated. Please do not hesitate to contact the clerk to express an interest.

Cllr Rod Adkins, Chairman

**Invitation to a talk on
"Breaking the Enigma Code"
accompanied by a display on
the Parish role in WWII will
launch this years
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
to be held on
WEDNESDAY
20th April 2016
DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM
TO START PROMPTLY
AT 7.00PM
IN THE MAIN HALL AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, BRAESIDE
ROAD, ST LEONARDS**

This year the Council has arranged for a talk by Pat Shepherd on the breaking of the Enigma Code. Pat worked at Bletchley Park during WWII and was involved in this crucial major breakthrough. The event will also feature a history display from John Hawkins local historian on St Leonards "secret army" and the Hospitals role. Refreshments will be available.

Following the talk the Chairman will give a short annual report on the Council year and the annual accounts will be presented. Residents can ask questions directly of the Councillors and put forward ideas for the future.

I do hope you will be able to attend.

SPRING - CLOCKS CHANGE AND TIME TO CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERY -

Please note the Fire Brigade are happy to give you a free home safety check and will in need fit a free smoke detector. Ring Dorset Fire 0800 038 2323 to arrange for this.

COMPUTER CAFE

Meets every Friday morning from 9-12.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road. Cost £4 for an hour with free refreshments. Really helpful and knowledgeable group will help you with all sorts of computer issues.

EDDC JUST HISTORY BY THE NEXT ELECTIONS?

Proposals are being investigated which would eliminate Dorset's District Councils, such as East Dorset District Council, and amalgamate them into a Unitary 'Super Council'. The argument is that this would stimulate economic growth, and provide cost savings through economies of scale. Part of the concept is the idea that Parish and Town Councils could be given additional powers and responsibilities. However, it is far from clear how this would work in practice.

Although East Dorset has Town and Parish Councils, many parts of Dorset have few or none at all. So at the same time as District Councils are being abolished, new Councils would have to be created. Existing ones might also struggle to cope with an additional workload. Parish Clerks usually work part-time, some from home as smaller ones do not have premises. Many Councils do not pay Councillors any allowances, so there would be a big question over how much more time they would be prepared to give for free. This could be the reason why some Councils usually have unfilled Councillor vacancies. There is also the question of how much this would all cost, especially as Central Government applies a cap to increases in Council taxes.

This seems to me to be a classic case of trying to fix something that is not broken, and in fact works pretty well. Others will, no doubt, see it differently.

Cllr. Mike Dyer

CUT BACK YOUR HEDGE

Spring is about... its time to check your hedge and make sure any vegetation overhanging the pavement is cut back. Make sure it is clear to head height, at least 6' and the full width of any pavement. Take care though not to disturb any nesting birds before cutting.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

In simple terms it is being prepared for an event or events which we all hope will never happen. Being prepared though is something that we should all strive for. Preparing a grab bag is something that might seem extreme but can mean a crisis is easier to overcome. A grab bag is ideal for a household and suggested contents would be a wind up torch, insurance details important contact numbers. Knowing the location of key points such as the stop tap, electricity and gas meters. An example of a domestic emergency plan is available on our website and from the Parish Office.

DORSET OR HAMPSHIRE YOU CAN ONLY BE IN ONE!

You would think you would know what County you are in however, being so close to the border with Hampshire it is not surprising how many seem to get it wrong. Perhaps this is partly as a result of past boundary changes and the fact that the postcode of BH24 is Ringwood Hampshire.

St Leonards and St Ives which includes Ashley, Ashley Heath, and Avon Castle is all part of the St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council area the whole area is firmly anchored within the County of **Dorset**. The County is divided into districts and we are within East Dorset District. It is important to remember this when involving the emergency services always ensure you state that you are in Dorset as this can delay the arrival of assistance as instead of the call being directed to a Dorset base it might be from further away.

The Parish Council of St Leonards & St Ives was established in 1932 and is a completely separate body to the District and County

Councils. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on matters directly affecting the Parish but can only act within its powers. We have only one member of staff. Members of the Council are elected for 4 years by the electorate of the Parish and are required to act as a corporate body. Any decision once made is binding on all. A Member cannot act alone they discuss and decide how to act collectively at publicly convened meetings and they are required to attend those meetings with an open mind. Councillors are required to act in line with a duly adopted Code of Conduct. Councillors need therefore to exercise caution when publically making sweeping statements which might signify a closed mind to certain arguments in future.

The next elections are in May 2019.

PLANNING AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT

There seems to have been some concern expressed in Streetlife over continued development in this Parish and indeed, who does what.

First of all the Parish Council is only a consultee and as such is not able to make the final decision. The Parish Council holds Planning meetings during which all plans submitted to them are looked at and discussed in detail. If sufficient objections are raised by residents and also by the Parish Council it goes to the East Dorset Planning Committee for decision who may then decide to pass or reject the plan. On the occasion a plan is rejected by East Dorset, the developer may decide to go to appeal where it is considered by the Planning Inspectorate and a final determination is made.

Planning matters have become more difficult and you may have heard that the Government is increasing the target for house building by some 50% with a requirement for a presumption in favour of development.

Your support for or objections against a particular plan need to be made in writing to East Dorset District Council Planning Department with a copy to the

Parish Council. You also need to attend the Parish Council Planning Meeting where this particular plan or plans are being discussed. Your attendance is encouraged so that we can know your views first hand and in turn you can see for yourself how such meetings are conducted. You can view agendas and minutes by visiting www.stleonardspc.org.uk.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Dementia is not visually obvious. It takes many forms and has varying degrees of progression. It is a condition which you live with rather than suffer from. Reports suggest that 1 in 14 people over the age of 65 have dementia and 40% of these people report feeling lonely and not part of their community. The 2012 census of our Parish shows 39% of our population are 65 or over well above the National average of 17% statistically that works out at around 192 people in St Leonards with dementia in some form. Dementia often leaves people feeling lonely shut off from things unable to cope in new places. They can get disorientated and frightened especially by new environments. Their perception of simple things can be irrational.

The Alzheimers Society is leading the way to create Dementia Friendly Communities to help those living with this problem feel part of their community. The idea is to cascade information to others so that people with dementia can continue to live within their communities for longer. Look out for Dementia Friends Information Sessions. This is a short 45 minute informative talk which will help you recognise the signs of someone with dementia and will help you to understand some of their behaviour.

Dementia is not going away as a community we need more people to recognise the problem and how to communicate with those with it to ensure that they can continue to be a part of our Community and stay safe.

PARISH GRANTS - 2015/2016

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to support the following

local organisations which help and assist our Community:-

Age Concern Day Centre
Wednesday Brightside Club
Friday Friends
New Forest Citizens Advice
East Dorset Citizens Advice
East Dorset Environment Partnership
Freedom Youth Club
Greyfriars Minibus
Royal British Legion

Budget cuts are still at the forefront of our minds and the latest news from the County Council is that major cuts in the Youth service are required as money is prioritised to children in care. This will impact on our own Youth Club which is staffed by County Council employees

PARKING

Please do not park on verges you just tear them up and leave a muddy mess. Please note that in this area a number have wild orchids growing on them. Consider your neighbours.

DOGS, CHANGES TO THE LAW EFFECTIVE 6TH APRIL 2016

The following information was taken from www.gov.uk.

From 6 April 2016 all dogs will be required to have a microchip. If they do not, they will face a fine of up to £500. 110,000 stray dogs are picked up by police, local authorities and animal welfare charities each year.

Over half (52%) of these stray dogs could not be rehomed because their owner could not be identified.

From the above date all dogs over 8 weeks in age must be micro chipped and the owner registered on a recognised database. This new law also requires owners to keep the database up-to-date so if moving house this must be notified. So if you really do care about your best friend make sure they are micro chipped!

Responsible dog ownership the core requirements:-

Clear up after them
keep them under control

Keep them on a lead near livestock
Microchip them

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

Thanks to County Councillor Peter Richardson we will shortly be installing a bench and a wildflower meadow at Horton Road Village Green and a wildflower strip in front of the Ashley Halt. This is a particularly fitting tribute to Mr Brian Klinger who was a stalwart environmental volunteer and spent a great deal of time assisting at Lions Hill and Avon Heath. Our thanks to Cllr Peter Richardson. The work will commence in early Spring. Special harvesting of the areas will be needed to encourage further more prolific seeding, we are most grateful to Avon Heath Rangers who will be giving us training on this to ensure the sustainability of these areas. The selected seed will be aimed at encouraging bees and butterflies which are sadly declining nationally.

CORNERWAYS MEDICAL CENTRES – ST LEONARDS & POULNER

In following good practice, Cornerways has a small Patient Participation Group called Patients Voice. This provides an easy interface between the Practice and Patients.

We are a small group of volunteers who meet bi-monthly to discuss patient issues and to obtain Practice updates. We are now holding 6 monthly Open House meetings where we arrange for a short presentation on medical and health issues. At our last meeting, Dr. Shaw gave an informative talk on diabetes.

Our next Open House is to be held on Thursday May 19th 2016 starting 6:00pm in the Conference room at Poulner surgery. The intention is to have a presentation on mental health. This will be advertised in both surgeries.

To ensure representation, it is important that we have input from patients. To make this easier we have our own email address patientsvoice@outlook.com

We are always looking for patients to become Virtual Members who have direct contact with the group but do not have to attend timely meetings. Updates and feedback on issues are provided plus early advice of open House meetings and input on subjects for future presentations. Everyone is welcome and we would really like to hear from you.

Jenny House – Patients Voice Chairman

EAST DORSET AND RINGWOOD NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The NHSRF aims to support its members through the provision of social, leisure, educational and welfare activities.

A member maybe anyone who has retired from the NHS, retired from working for a related or private health service organisation or caring profession or are working or have worked on a voluntary basis within the NHS. Spouses, partners and friends of members can also join. We offer:

- Friendship and fellowship
- Monthly meetings with a variety of visiting speakers (on all manner of topics – we are certainly not limited to medical matters!)
- Regular outings organised walks
- Lunches out

We meet at 10:00 am on the second Tuesday of each month at the St. Leonards Village Hall, Braeside Road, BH24 2PH.

For further information please contact our Membership Secretary, **Deirdre, on 01425 472940** or email our Secretary, **Linda,** at lindadickins@hotmail.co.uk

ADDITIONAL PARKING AT THE REAR OF THE VILLAGE HALL

With the co-operation of Scouts & Guides, the Parish Council have been able to provide six additional parking spaces at the rear of the Village Hall, for the use of those using the Braeside Road Recreation area and Children's Play area, plus the Bowls and Tennis facilities. As these spaces

are in an area of low traffic volume and nearer to the recreation and play areas, it is hoped that they will prove useful for those with young children and people with walking difficulties.

The new parking spaces and the existing Parish Council owned spaces in the approach road, have been lined in blue, to differentiate them from those managed by the Village Hall, which are marked out in white. The Parish council, therefore respectfully ask, that those using the Village Hall, park in the white spaces and that those using the other facilities park in the blue spaces.

It is hoped that although only small in number, that these additional spaces will help reduce the on road parking in Braeside Road.
Cllr Colin House

BONFIRES

Spring is just around the corner and hopefully some better weather. It's easy to start getting carried away in the garden and suddenly you have a sack full of debris to get rid of. The best place for your garden waste is the compost heap or garden waste bin. Alternatively take it to the Waste Recycling Centre at Somerley just off the Verwood Road. Please **THINK** twice before deciding to burn it. Your neighbours also have a right to enjoy their gardens and have their windows open in warmer weather. Smoke is a health issue particularly for those with asthma. **Please be thoughtful DON'T BURN IT.**

ALL THAT GLISTENS IS NOT GOLD!

If it sounds too good or too persuasive it should sound warning bells.

Ease of communication has unfortunately left the door open to the unscrupulous whose only aim is to defraud you of your money. There are now numerous telephone scams to which people fall victim. The ones purporting to be your bank and of late the police claiming a fraud has occurred on your bank account or credit card.

Their only aim is to get your banking and card details and to be more persuasive they may suggest you contact your provider etc. They will then leave your phone line open so when you ring you will think you are speaking to your bank or police, when in fact you will be speaking directly to them again. The banks or the police will never contact you in this way and ask for such details.

Other similar scam calls include "You have won a prize" or "You are due a large rebate" they will then request you make an administration payment in some cases this is substantial.

Beware of the doorstep callers, saying your roof requires a repair, offering to tarmac your drive or do building work. They may well be extremely friendly, sound sympathetic and offer economic terms or special one-time cut-price offers. In the long run it may well prove very expensive and in some cases unnecessary. Unfortunately new and more innovative scams are invented and to avoid becoming a victim we all need to become more wary, ensure we do not give away financial details to chance callers no matter how convincing they sound and do our research before employing anyone to do work for you.

Remember. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Race Night on the 30th January held in the Village Hall and managed by the committee proved to be a great success with over 90 people attending.

At the following committee meeting one of our members suggested that the committee should investigate the possibility of having a Parish Party to commemorate our Queen's 90th birthday and the date of the 12th June was put forward. We would have to ask the Parish Council for their permission to use the field and patio. Ideas put forward are that as many groups who use the hall on a regular basis should put forward an idea and participate in the events of the day.

It was suggested that the many groups who use the hall on a regular basis, should participate in the day's events, will be invited to put forward ideas of how they would like to be involved.

Ann Warman 01425 476319

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Braeside Community Café was started in April 2013 as the St. Leonards & St. Ives Homewatch Committee's idea to bring the community together. The support we have received from the local people has been tremendous, not only in regular attendance but people bringing in items for sale. In the first 8 months we raised £1,000 for the Braeside Day Centre, St. Leonards from the sale of books, bric-a-brac and cakes. During 2015 we raised £3,300 for our two chosen charities, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and Julias House. Each came along to receive a cheque of £1,650. For further information please contact : Barbara Pilch on 01202 861821

USEFUL INFORMATION: The Parish Council meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Further information is available on our website www.stleonardspc.org.uk

Dorset for you:

www.dorsetforyou.com has lots of information such as road works, waste collections and planning applications.

A338 updates:-

For accurate updates on work on A338 please view:-

www.dorsetforyou.com/bournemo-uth-spur-road

Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/traveldorset>

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