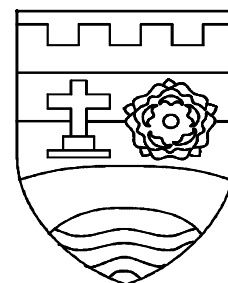


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2013

Councillors

	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Peter Fenemore	600572
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Eva Norris	601355
Bruno Paillusson	603427
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
Vacancy	

Alan Platt (Clerk to the Council)
can be contacted at:

**9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX**

Tel: 01257 234003

e-mail:

crostonpc@btinternet.com

website:

www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk

Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), in The Old School, Church Street, Croston.

All residents are welcome to attend and a section of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities and details of meetings etc. The noticeboards are located on the Village Green, outside the Co-op, in front of the Police Station and by the Surgery on Brookfield.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to include A4 sized posters to publicise events etc should contact the Clerk.

£2m Boost for Croston

On 30 Nov 2012 the Treasury announced that an extra £120M was to be invested in speeding up the delivery of flood defence schemes. Half of this money was for locations worthy of accelerated delivery of protection schemes, following the 2012 floods and the fantastic news for Croston is that the Environment Agency has announced that initial funding of £1.5m has been earmarked towards an estimated total cost of £2.1m to construct defences that will reduce the risk of flooding to over 450 local homes and businesses.

Possible solutions to the problems include upstream flood storage, raised defences, a flow diversion into the Croston Moss area, upstream flow diversion from the River Yarrow to the River Douglas and combinations of these. The preferred solution will be determined following consultation with partner organisations and the local community.

The news was welcomed by Derek Antrobus, chair of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, who approved the indicative programme of funding in their January meeting.

He said: "Our success in securing this funding is down to the excellent co-operation in the North West between the Environment Agency and local authorities. No matter where in the region, no matter what their politics, local councils have worked with the Environment Agency to make sure we get the best deal for communities at risk in the North West."

But he warned: "Despite our investment there will always be properties at risk and there is always a risk that major flood events will overtop defences. It is still really important for people to sign up to flood warnings and take action to prepare for flooding."

A number of people have been working towards securing the funding on behalf of the village including Lancashire County Councillors and Officers. County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council's representative on the Environment Agency's North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee has worked with local representative and Parish Councillor Keith Iddon to push this scheme to develop a lasting solution for the village forward. County Councillor Atkinson said "Following last summer's floods we have worked very closely with our partners, including the Environment Agency, to look at solutions to the village's flooding problems. We've already put some measures into place, including improving drainage, but this £1.5m funding will enable us to protect more than 400 local homes and businesses".

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone involved in achieving the funding for their efforts.

Nicholsons

Ligan House, 32 Town Road, Croston

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 Prices available on request 

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 References available on request 

Covering Croston and
surrounding villages

 Ellen Peet 

Tel: 07704 884700

email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk

Meditation

for a relaxed, positive mind

Drop-in classes at
Croston Old School

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00pm
£5 (£2.50 concessions)

visit www.meditateinlancs.org.uk
for more details or call

07767 651234

Reg. Charity No. 292304

Chairman's Report

I would like to begin by expressing my thanks to Robert Baker who resigned from the Parish Council in February. We send our best wishes to Robert and his wife.

The news that £2.1 million has been secured to invest in flood defences in Croston (see front page) has been welcomed by everyone who has been working to raise the issue. We look forward to hearing how the funding will be spent.

I am also pleased that the Parish Council has been able to devise a budget for the coming year which meet its needs but only requires a very small increase in Council tax to householders.

The plans for the Recreation Ground have been approved by the Parish Council and I would like to thank the volunteers of the Friends of Croston Recreation Ground for their work to date. The plans will now be costed and the group will begin the massive task of securing the necessary funding to make the plans a reality.

A reminder that the Council meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Croston Old School and residents are always welcome to attend. You can also read the minutes of meeting on the Council website: www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk

Anne Peet

Council Tax 2013-14

At the January meeting the Council approved a reduction in the Parish Precept of £936 (approx 4.5%) for 2013-14, despite introducing a completely new budget of £2000 introduced to assist with flooding issues and an additional £2500 towards the Recreation Ground improvement project.

Ordinarily, this would have resulted in a similar percentage reduction in the parish part of residents' council tax however, due to a 7% reduction in the Council Tax Base (the figure on which the parish precept is worked) as a result of revisions to the Council Tax Benefit Scheme, this will result in an increase of 52p per annum for the average Band D council tax payer. This would have been more but for Chorley Council passing on a small portion of its increase in income from the new council tax support grant provided by Central Government.

From the Precept the Council employs our Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes through the village, ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area and the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and grass verges throughout the village. The Council also provides the Christmas tree and lights on the Village Green, planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats and some litter bins, the Speed Indicator Device, emptying of dog waste bins and the requisite insurance cover.

Thank You

The 2012 Poppy Appeal in Croston raised just over £2000, an increase of over £300 on the 2011 figure.

A huge thank you, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, to everyone for their generosity and thanks also to the Collectors and businesses etc who allowed a collection box on their premises.

Community Defibrillator

Every year around 30000 people suffer cardiac arrest outside of hospital every year and chances of survival decrease by 14% for each minute treatment is delayed.

A sponsored Pub Quiz, arranged by Parish Councillor Stephen Parkinson and friend Steven Swift, raised over £850 towards a public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED). There were over 6



The Wheatsheaf team being quizzed in the sports club

teams with over 90 participants in the quiz who all had a brilliant evening. The winning team were from The Black Horse and the trophy which was kindly donated by Stonewater Wealth Management of Tarleton, was presented to team captain Lesley Carlton by Roger Smith of Wymott Community

First Responders. An additional donation from the Parish Council to cover the balance of the cost and installation should see the defibrillator installed in the village centre very soon.

Now comes the opportunity for residents to learn basic life support skills thanks to the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) HeartStart programme and North West Ambulance Service's Wymott Community First Responders (CFRs).

The Heartstart programme is a free initiative which teaches people what to do in life threatening emergencies. Training will be delivered by Wymott CFRs, volunteers who live and work in the local community.

For more information on the HeartStart Scheme in Croston please contact Rodger Smith, of Wymott CFRs on 07723 070662 or email smithrodger@hotmail.co.uk



Lesley Carlton from the Black Horse being presented with the trophy



The designs for the Recreation Ground improvement scheme were approved by the Parish Council at it's February meeting.

Anyone wanting an electronic version of the proposed design

can get one by emailing the Clerk at crostonpc@btinternet.com

A planning application will be submitted in the near future, which will give residents an opportunity to comment on the proposals, and work is already under way on applications to various bodies for funding.

Croston Pre-School



Pre-school places available for 2-5 yr olds.
Call and see us anytime

Stay and Play session
for families with children aged 0-5yr
every Wednesday
9.30 - 11.30 (term time)

Details can be found on our website:
www.crostonpreschool.org

Croston Old School, Church Street,
Croston. PR26 9HA

01772 601241

e:crostonpre-school@tiscali.co.uk

Registered charity no:1100800

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street
Croston
PR26 9HA

Friday 19 April

Kieran Halpen

Singer/songwriter

★ "Great songs, great singing, great guitar playing and great stories" ★

Tickets £8

Tuesday 28 May

★ **Chris Bannister &** ★

Steve Weisberg

Steve was lead guitarist for John Denver and is joining Chris to celebrate John's music

Tickets £15

Further details can be found on our website:

www.croston-old-school.org

New for 2013

Pilates with Debbie Hoyle
Monday 6.30 - 7.30pm

e:crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk

t:01772 603600

Registered Charity no. 1074784

Tree Spree

Have you seen the Croston Tree Planting Team out recently? And how many of the 185 newly planted trees have you spotted? You will see them at both schools, doctors surgeries, Alms Houses, around the Moss, but mainly in front gardens!



Four of the planting team with the first "official" tree of Tree Spree, planted in small bed on the Village Green

During February, 4 planting sessions were held when village volunteers planted trees in front gardens and other visible locations. The work has all been part of Tree Spree, a parish council project, funded by the National Lottery which aims to ensure Croston stays well "treed" for future generations. Although planting trees was the main objective the opportunity for people to get together to carry out a project that is of wider benefit was equally important, with many of the planting team meeting new co-residents.

The great news is that there is a small amount left in the project



budget, probably enough to pay for a further 40 - 50 trees next planting season. Although this round of planting has been open for all residents over the summer, we will be asking householders whose properties sit in really prominent locations to consider having an appropriate sized tree for their

garden, that they and passers by can enjoy.

If you have any suggestions please make contact with the parish council directly and your details can be passed on.

Tim Blyth



A Big Thank You

Croston Village Festivities Group organises, on behalf of the village, two major annual events: the Christmas Lights Switch-On and the Christmas Fair. For both of these events we rely on volunteers who give up their time to plan the celebrations and ensure they offer Croston residents a unique festive experience. The group is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 8th April, at 7.30 pm in the Old School. Everyone is welcome. Please come along and find out how you can help - or just to see what we do. Further details available from the secretary, Brenda Hopper, on 01772 601363

Provisional Dates for Next Year

Christmas Lights Switch-On: Sunday 1st December 2013

Christmas Fair: Sunday 8th December 2013

CROSTON ACORNS

NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Celebrating Ofsted Success!

After a successful inspection from Ofsted in January, we were really pleased with the positive feedback received from the Inspector. As one of the first local nurseries to be inspected under the new Ofsted inspection requirements we received high praise in all areas, such as:

“There is a strong, well organised team, who share a vision for driving improvement”

“Children form strong bonds with staff and each other, allowing them to be safe, secure and happy”

“Children are active and creative learners who are enthusiastic and responsive”

“Parents are full of praise for the supportive staff and their contributions to their children’s well being and learning”

Graduation Success!

We are also celebrating the news that Mr Joshua has completed his degree and has achieved his Early Years Professional Status. Alongside our other highly qualified staff, this ensures the nursery and pre school benefit from the knowledge and experience of a qualified teacher status.

Come and Join Us!

Limited places are available for children age 0 to 5 years in our homely, welcoming setting.

We Offer up to 15 Hours per week FREE childcare for your 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks a year!!

Dob Bridge Cottage, Brickcroft Lane, Croston, Nr Leyland, PR26 9AA.

Please contact us by phone 01772 601074 or email crostonacorns@btconnect.com to book an appointment to look round our fantastic newly opened nursery.



Businesses

Do you want to reach around 1300 households in Croston?

We can offer full colour ads in the colour insert. A half column ad costs £45 (£30 black and white) and a quarter column £22.50 (£15). Other sizes can be catered for.

To advertise in this newsletter contact Alan Platt on 01257 234003 or email crostonpc@btinternet.com for further details.

Lower Yarrow Flood Action Group

Beginning back in 2010 a series of meetings, initially set up by Laura Travers of the Environment Agency and Simon Clark, Head of Environment and Neighbourhoods at Chorley Council, took place to formulate an Emergency Flood Plan. Arising from this, the Emergency Flood Group, coordinated by Parish Councillor, Bruno Paillusson, will take action to help the village cope in a flood situation.

From the original meetings, Parish Councillors Kath Almond and Peter Fenemore and members of the community David Massam and John Twinn organised their own Flood Action Group and, over the next two years, held many meetings with the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council. They also looked at Flood Defence Schemes in other areas.

A public meeting in November 2012, attended by around a hundred concerned residents, saw the formalisation of the Lower Yarrow Flood Action Group, with a constitution and committee.

To be awarded the £2.1m funding for a flood defence scheme (see front cover) is fantastic news, and the Group would like to thank everyone involved for the hard work in obtaining the grant for Croston.

Anyone wishing to offer help, or would like further information, should contact any committee member.

Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Robert Baker a vacancy exists on the Parish Council.

At the time of production of this newsletter a notice of vacancy has been posted giving electors the opportunity of calling an election. Should an election not be called the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

If the vacancy is filled by co-option and you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply, in writing or by email, to the Clerk (details on front page), providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council. If you would like further information please also contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to Robert for his past service and wish him well for the future.

Croston St Michaels Scouts

We are happy to say we have a thriving group - one of the biggest in Chorley District. The success of the group is down to our great group of uniformed leaders, section helpers and young leaders, not forgetting all our parents who help in various ways. Our sections have already started on full, fun packed programmes - the Cub section went along to the Wheatsheaf for a meal, also they have their first camp of the year at Cliff's Barn taking part in various activities in the half term.

Beaver's are shortly going on a train journey, a group of the Scouts are taking part in the Bowlander challenge at Waddecar in April so are busy getting ready for that.

This is just a tiny part of what we do... interested??

Please ring Susan on 601321.

Need a professional website? Computer Problems?

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Mobile: 07777 631689

Email: neil@technohow.co.uk

Website: www.technohow.co.uk

Ever thought about Volunteering?



Our volunteers make a real difference in your community by supporting vulnerable adults who have a variety of additional needs.

Why volunteer?

- gain valuable employability experience - looks great on your cv
- meet people and make new friends
- try something different and learn new skills
- get involved in your community

We have a number of interesting and rewarding volunteer roles including supporting carers, helping individuals to undertake volunteering or access local community and leisure services and home visiting.

To find out more about opportunities at Lancashire County Council visit

www.lancashire.gov.uk/volunteer

or email: volunteer.services@lancashire.gov.uk

CROSTON'S BARBER

TRADITIONAL &
MODERN STYLES
at
HAIR21

Tuesday 9.00am - 6.00pm
Thursday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am - 3.00pm

Tel: Ian (01772)

601272

21 Town Road, Croston

Lancashire Constabulary



There have been complaints about anti social behaviour from several local youths, particularly on the train station car park. This has been targeted by local patrols and parents have been informed. Please make sure you know where your child is and who they are with.

Dog fouling patrols have been increased and as a result, several local offenders have picked up a £75 fine for not picking their dog poo up! Can I also point out that is now an offence NOT to have your dog on a lead at all times when walking at the roadside! This can also result in a £75 fine.

Two foreign males were arrested on suspicion of theft from the Charity clothing bins on the train station this week. Can anyone who sees anything suspicious please report it to 101 or, in an emergency, 999.

Talking of emergencies, we recommend you store your next of kin's phone number in your phone as 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency). This will assist emergency services in contacting your nearest and dearest should they need to.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

Shared Lives Service



Shared Lives usually involves caring for an adult in your family home, because they cannot live with their own family or on their own. We want to recruit Shared Lives carers who can provide long term placements. You need to be able to provide a spare furnished bedroom for the person you support to stay in. We are also seeking carers for:

Short term breaks/respice - giving family members/Shared Lives Carers a break from their caring role.

Daytime support - providing support to a person for a few hours a day.

Boarding out support - where a Shared Lives Carer provides support to someone living in their own home.

Emergency care - when a person needs immediate support due to a family or personal crisis.

You will be provided with a generous financial allowance.

No formal qualifications are required. .

To find out more give us a call on 01257 516036 or email:

sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items provided by third party contributors.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (non-emergency) 101

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Report problems regarding the Station and station car park area to British Transport Police on: 0800 405040

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

Report problems with roads and pavements, including street lighting, to Lancashire County Council on:

0845 0530011

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 988 1188

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Our services include:

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- Transportation & errands
- Meal preparation
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- Help with washing, dressing & personal care
- Medication reminders
- Holiday & respite cover
- Specialist dementia care

For further information **Please Call:** Lindsay on 01257 367404 or email to

mark.booker@rightathomeuk.com
www.rightathomeuk.com

Right at Home is registered with the Care Quality Commission

Croston Community Centre

We hope you all got our flyer telling you about our great range of activities. If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see going on in your Community Centre please get in touch with us. Number on the notice board. Hope to see you at one of the events!

THURSDAY TOTS

Just moved in the village with 'small' people or, even if you already live here, don't know where to go?

Come along to TOTS on Thursday morning from 9-30am.

We are a group of mums, carers (sometimes dads) who meet up for a chat with a brew while the children play in a safe environment. Juice/snacks are provided, also a craft for those wanting to do one.

Cost £2-00 per family.