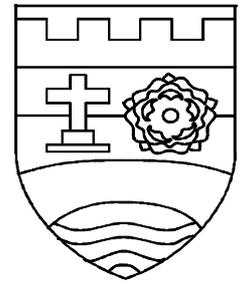


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



September 2013

Councillors

	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Mark Cowley	07545 976151
Peter Fenemore	600572
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Eva Norris	601355
Bruno Paillusson	603427
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160

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 notice boards 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.

North West in Bloom

Good news from this year's competition - the Village has been nominated, once again, to receive an award.

Presentation of the trophies and certificates will take place on 24 October 2013 at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre, when we will find out exactly which award we will be receiving.

The village has a history of success in the competition and, last year, was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal in the Large Village category of the Competition, with the Friends of Croston Station, Church Street and The Orchard all receiving Neighbourhood Awards.

This year, Dalton Fold has joined the Friends of Croston Station and Church Street in being nominated to receive awards in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Competition.

We would like to, once again, thank all residents and local businesses who contributed towards the success by providing floral displays, hanging baskets etc for their properties - your contribution was, as always, well received by the Judges. Thanks also to Mike Murphy and his colleagues at CCH for their assistance with the Dalton Fold entry.

Defibrillator Update

We are in the throes of adopting the BT Payphone Kiosk at the Town Road/Station Road junction as a permanent site for the community defibrillator. Negotiations on the adoption contract have been concluded and BT has agreed to a couple of repairs, including replacement of the badly warped door, prior to the installation of the defibrillator. Strangely, BT has reinstalled a cashless phone until the adoption is complete.

Unfortunately, the supplier recommended to the Council has been unable to provide a defibrillator and assistance is being obtained from North West Ambulance Service regarding an alternative device which NWAS will be able to support.

We are very aware that many residents contributed towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the village and may have been wondering what has happened to it and we would like to reassure everyone that we hope to have the defibrillator up and running asap.

New Councillor

We'd like to offer a warm welcome to Mark Cowley, who was co-opted onto the Council at the meeting in July.

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Thurs 10.30-11.30am Bateman Hall, Eccleston

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References available on request

Covering Croston and surrounding villages

Ellen Peet

Tel: 07704 884700

email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk

Tots Group

New to Croston or just looking for somewhere to go on a Thursday morning? - then come along with your baby/tot to the Community Centre, Castle Walks on Thursday's between 9:30 -11:30am.

£2-00per family. A safe environment for tots to make new friends and play and for Mums/Dads/Carers to meet and have a chat /brew.

Baby area.

Hope to see you there.

Chairman's Report

We have recently received the news that we have yet again been invited to attend the Annual Award ceremony for the North West in Bloom competition to collect an award. Unfortunately we won't know what the village has won until we get there but we hope to, at least match the Silver Gilt Award of last year and keep up Croston's marvellous tradition of performing extremely well in this competition, despite our very limited budget.

I would like to welcome Mark Cowley as our newest Councillor, who joined the Council in July to fill a long standing vacancy. I'm sure Mark will bring plenty of new ideas to the table!

Work is still going on in the background to get our Community Defibrillator installed and working in the village. We are currently arranging, with BT, adoption of the payphone kiosk on Town Road.

Flooding is still at the forefront of many people's minds and I have attended Neighbourhood Area meetings at Chorley Council at which one of the priorities set was to look at ways of increasing community resilience to flood risk and improving community flood response in the event of a flood. Another priority is to try to deal with social isolation in rural areas by improving the range of village events and the ability to network between community groups across villages and increasing participation in activities to reduce isolation, particularly amongst the elderly population and young families.

Finally I would just like to remind residents of the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 10 November 2013. We leave The Old School at 1:00pm, with the Service of Remembrance at 1:30pm at St Michael's Church.

Anne Peet

Information from the Environment Agency

By Autumn 2013, we will close our depots at Garstang, Great Hanging Bridge in Croston and Fine Jane depot in Downholland, near Formby and moving our staff to Spurrier House, Lancashire Business Park, Centurion Way, Leyland, PR26 6TP.

The Leyland depot will be a base for our Operation Teams who manage and maintain our rivers and importantly who respond prior to and during heavy rainfall. This will improve our responsiveness in protecting homes and communities across the area. Our level of service will remain unchanged and our front line response will not be affected as our officers will be mobile in their vehicles to transport machinery on site.

All our pumping stations including: Altmouth near Hightown, North Merseyside, Crossens near Banks, West Lancashire; and Dock Bridge near Lytham on the Fylde coast are not affected. These pumping stations, which manage water levels and reduce flood risk will continue to be operated by our members of staff.

If you would like more information or have any maintenance queries you can call David Darbyshire, South Lancashire and North Merseyside on 01772 432619. You can also email us at nwcorrespondence@environment-agency.gov.uk

For more information about our work please follow @envagencynw or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk

News from the Environment Agency

We have been developing, with our partners, plans to manage the risk from river, foul and surface water flooding in and around Croston.

Three options to manage flood risk were presented to residents at a drop in day:

- upstream flood storage
- diversion of the river at the Croft Field
- diversion of the river at Syd Brook.

These were assessed and the Croft Field option removed due to high cost and low performance.



Taken from Town Bridge - September 2012

We will continue to work on the remaining options and, by October, should have identified the preferred scheme which will be presented to residents at another drop in session.

Earlier in the year the Government allocated £2.15m towards the construction of the Croston Scheme, subject to approval of our business case for the preferred option. The actual cost is likely to be more than this figure and we are already developing plans with our partners and external parties to raise the additional funds required.

If all goes according to plan construction of the scheme will begin in the Autumn of 2014. Together with our partners we must ensure the flood risk management scheme we put in place is the best available to us in terms of level of protection against flood risk, suitability for the local environment and value for money.

We will keep residents up to date with newsletters, through the local press and update we provide to the Lower Yarrow Flood Action Group.

If you would like to share your thoughts on the flood risk management scheme, or would like further information contact Neil Forsythe, Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Project Manager on 01925 542987 or Colin Worswick, FCRM Officer on 01772 714259. Alternatively email us at croston@environment-agency.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyNW

www.environment-agency.gov.uk



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Crown Raising
Crown Reduction
Crown Thinning
Tree Felling
Stump Grinding

For further information please ring Paul on - Tel: **01772 469624** or Mobile: **07449017090**

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4 year olds

NEW

From Sept. 2013

Open 8.00am -6.00pm

(Term-time only)

Stay and Play session

for families with children aged 0-5yr
every Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 (term
time) in the Old School hall

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

Croston Old School, Church Street,
Croston. PR26 9HA
01772 601241

e:crostonpre-school@tiscali.co.uk

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street
Croston
PR26 9HA

Forthcoming Entertainments

★ **Friday 13 September** ★
Fake Thackray

The songs of Jake Thackray
performed by John Watterson
Tickets £8

★ **Friday 11 October** ★
Nothing to Prove

(Brian Preston & Denis Wane)
Tickets £8

★ **Friday 1 November** ★
Anthony John

Clarke
Tickets £8

★ **Friday 6 December** ★
One Accord

E:crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk
t:01772 603600
Registered Charity no. 1074784

Friends of Croston Rec

Phase 1 of the development has been rationalised and the cost estimate is coming in at around £114000. We have developed a fundraising strategy and the Group is now beginning to move this forward and will start the process to begin to access grant schemes available to the project.



We will now be working with the Parish Council on getting the necessary information together for the submission of a planning application.

Good News and Bad News

Bad news: After Friends of Croston Station had planted up the barrels on the station someone decided to throw the plants all over the car park.

Good news: The Station has been awarded a prize in North West in Bloom, but we will have to wait until 23rd October to find out what.

Christmas Lights

We know it's a little early, but our December newsletter may not reach residents in time so we'd like to give advance notice of the Christmas Lights Switch On on Sunday 1 December.

Come along and join Councillors and Members of the Village Festivities Group on the Village Green.

Remembrance Day 2013

This year's Parade will take place on 10 November 2013. Residents are advised of a revision to our traditional times - the Parade will leave Croston Old School at 1:00pm for a short service at the War Memorial followed by the Service of Remembrance at 1:30pm at St Michaels and All Angels Church. Following the Service everyone is invited back to The Old School for tea, coffee and biscuits.



If you can spare time between 26 October and 11 November for Door-to-Door Collecting, or you have a business and are willing to have a poppy tray and collection box please contact Alan, the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Croston District, on 01257 234003 or via email at crostonpc@btinternet.com



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Online Calendar

Some time ago, Parish Councillor Steve Parkinson created an online calendar for the use of Croston organisations and residents to help co-ordinate and publicise what's on around the village. This was done as the village diary which used to be kept in the Post Office has now fallen into disuse.

Below is a link to the calendar. It is also accessible from crostonnews on facebook and the Parish Council website. It would be great if you could list any upcoming events at your venue.

<http://www.calsnet.net/crosca>

Wayside Seats

It was mentioned at the parish council meeting in July that there was no public seating along Westhead Road, or Station Road.

Deciding on an appropriate place to site one was difficult however, if someone can think of an area where one can be placed, or even wishes to place one in memory of a loved one, please contact the parish clerk with details.

Council Tax Scam

Many residents are still receiving unsolicited telephone calls offering to check council tax bandings. Residents are informed they may be due a rebate of between £2000 and £3000. You should be aware that companies coldcalling to sell this type of service have no connection to any council or to the Valuation Office Agency and that you can check your council tax banding yourself. Any householder has the right to contact the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501501, or via its website www.voa.gov.uk.

If you are successful in getting the band lowered you will keep the entire rebate.

Croston Scouts

Can we first apologise for any mix up in the last deliveries we'll 'do our best 'in future so it won't happen again.

We have a thriving Scout Group to be proud of organised by a 'band' of fantastic volunteer leaders who in turn are supported by a supporters group and all our parents. We are back after the summer break with a full fun packed programme.

If you feel that you have a few 'spare' hours to fill either as a leader/supporter - we can help you with that! More information please get in touch with Susan 601321

Latest News from LYFAG

How nice it is to have a summer - we'd almost forgotten what it was like!

The Lower Yarrow Flood Action Group is still pursuing pumps. Lancashire County Council promised us pumps earlier in the year, but perhaps due to the change in politics, they have not materialised. We have written again to their Flood Section, and are awaiting their reply. We need to be prepared in the event of flooding prior to the Flood Prevention Project being constructed.

The parish council has advised the group that their insurance would not cover LYFAG volunteers, so we are investigating our own insurance.

Bruno Paillusson is co-ordinating volunteers; anyone who wishes to help in the event of a flood please contact him on 603427

The Environment Agency has informed us of their progress so far. They are hoping to identify a preferred option in Autumn this year, leading to a design by Autumn 2014, and construction by Autumn 2015 (please see colour insert for full details).

Kath Almond (Chairman LYFAG)

Woodyard Development

The Parish Council was recently asked, by Chorley Council, for its opinion on the name of the street for the proposed development of the old Woodyard site and the suggestion put forward was St Aidan's Place, as Croston began in the 7th century when St. Aidan arrived at the riverside settlements. In the absence of a church, a cross was erected as a place of worship. Croston literally means 'cross-town' and is derived from the two Old English words 'cross' and 'tun' (town/homestead/village). The name is unique as there are no other Crostons in the UK."

The Parish Council suggested the street should include the name 'De Trafford' as most of Croston came under the De Trafford estate until the demise of the de Trafford family in 1964. We lost the most important building in Croston (apart from St. Michael's church) when Croston Hall was demolished, also in 1964. The De Trafford Arms, named after the family, has now been demolished as a part of this development - the last memory of a family who meant so much to the village, and villagers who knew them.

We are awaiting further news from Chorley Council.

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Lancashire Constabulary



There have recently been incidents regarding Letter Boxes' that are situated externally on properties. There is an ongoing 'scam' whereby offenders apply for credit/cards at the address, then collect the post once delivered by the postman. These may well contain pin numbers and the actual cards themselves. Please be aware of anyone seen hanging around your address, paying attention to post boxes. Take a note of descriptions and any vehicles used, and contact the Police on 101.

There has also been an increase in Anti Social Behaviour and Noise Nuisance incidents. These are related to house parties / barbeques / public houses. Please be considerate and mindful of your neighbours, and the time!

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

News from VIP

All being well, we will be awarding grants in the Autumn/ Winter. We will be advertising on the website:

www.villagesinpartnership.co.uk

Community Groups benefiting from our latest round of grants were:

Croston Old School Community Archive

Hesketh Bank All Saints Mum's and Tots Group

Hesketh Bank Association Football Club

Charnock Richard Cub Scouts

Coppull Parish Church Scout Group

Eccleston Methodist Church Hall

Legacy Rainbow House

Longton Memorial Sports Social Club

Longton Methodist Church

Tarleton Bowling & Social Club

Our two remaining Charity shops in Burscough and Longton are looking for donations and we would be really grateful for donations of clothing (ladies, mens and childrens), along with bric a brac, cd's, dvd's and books.

If you require any further information regarding the Charity, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah on 01772 603591.



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