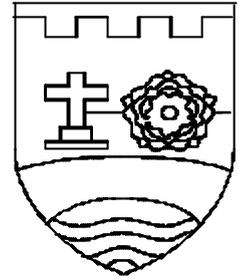




Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2008

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Kath Almond	600368
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John Kearton	600766
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www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in The Old School commencing at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The newsletter is published every quarter. Any local non-profit making organisations wishing to include articles or advise of forthcoming events etc. should contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Advertisers

Anyone wishing to advertise in the newsletter should contact the Clerk or Councilors for details. Prices are £30 for a half column and £15 for a quarter column.

We're Blooming Again

Croston took 3rd spot in the Large Village Category of this year's North West in Bloom Competition behind Woolton in Bloom, eventual winners of the Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom Competition, and Wrea Green.

Chairman, Anne Peet and Councillors Kath Almond and John Forrest attended the Awards Ceremony in Liverpool to collect the certificate.

This is a highly creditable result, particularly in view of the relatively miniscule amount of money spent by the Council on floral displays and planting, in comparison to many of our competitors, which is more than made up for by the efforts of a few willing volunteers.

The Judges were particularly impressed by the baskets along the roadside, Church Street, Croston Station, the Bowling Green, Bishop Chesters Wood, recycling and, last but by no means least, the cleanliness of the Village - once again a tribute to the efforts of our Lengthsman, Kevin Greenhalgh.

The Parish Council would also like to thank the residents of the Village for their help in achieving this result.

For next year the Parish Council is looking to form a North West in Bloom Group (see article on page 3) which will, hopefully, take our entry to the next level!

Best Kept Care Home

Croston Park Care Home was declared Lancashire's Best Kept Residential/Nursing Home in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2008.

'Highly Commended' Certificates were awarded to Croston Cornmill, in the Industrial/Commercial Premises category, Croston Sports Club, in the Cricket Field and Surrounds category and the Parish Council's own Village Green noticeboard in its' class.

Croston Parish Council wishes all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



(l-r) Anne Peet, Kath Almond, Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE (Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside) and John Forrest.
Photograph courtesy of Don Tonge.

!Relax!

Remedial Massage Therapies
Croston

**Fully qualified Therapist
Trained in London**

**ITEC qualifications & Diplomas
Accepts local GP referrals**

**Remedial massage for specific muscular
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Gift Vouchers now available

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Croston Acorns Nursery

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01772 601074**

www.crostonacornsnursery.co.uk

Nursery places available for
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Open 8.00 am to 6.00pm
51 weeks a year

Excellent relationships with
Trinity & St. Michaels School
and

Bretherton Endowed Primary
School

All staff fully qualified.

Outdoor Play Area.

Please ring and make an
appointment to look round
and pick up a prospectus.

Nicholsons

Friendly Village Solicitors

**32 Town Road
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Tel: 01772 601700

**Conveyancing, Matrimonial,
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Call now for more information

Chairman's Report

Over the past few months I have attended a variety of meetings and presentations where the subject of 'volunteers' has been highlighted.

On Sunday 9 November I attended the Annual Service of Remembrance alongside fellow members of the Parish Council. This year we were joined by the Deputy Mayor of Chorley, Councillor Iris Smith, and her Consort. Also present for the Parade and Church Service were a large number of Cubs and Scouts with their Leaders. The Troop was struggling for leaders and was forced to close for a while, but it is now thriving thanks to the many volunteers who stepped forward and donated their time to our young people.

Another group which is thriving thanks to the efforts of local residents is the newly formed 'Croston Village Festivities Group' which has taken over the organisation and running of the Christmas Market and Torchlight Procession which will take place on Sunday 14 December. I hope you will support this event.

The volunteers from 'The Friends of Croston Station' received a special mention in the Judges report in this year's North West in Bloom competition, with the comment that they should "Keep up the good work at the Station. It will be worthwhile!!" If you are green-fingered and would like to volunteer to help in next year's competition, the article below will be of interest to you.

Without the time and effort put in by local volunteers, many of our village activities would not take. I would like to say 'Thank you' to them all on behalf of the village.

I would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Anne Peet

Villages in Partnership

Second Time Around, Eccleston - (see opposite page for December opening times). We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their continued support in contributing to the success of the shop so far.

Villages in Partnership - Although the Defra funding finished in August of this year, VIP have raised sufficient funding for at least another 12 months. Unfortunately VIP is unable to host events, as it has in the past 3 years, due to the financial restrictions which we face with our present funder. However, we are still open for business to help local groups to seek grant funding and to assist with project ideas any way that we can.

Our Health Trainer, Frances, is now fully qualified and has started work in our local communities. This is a free and confidential service which provides one to one support, encourages and motivates people who are ready to make lifestyle changes to improve their health. contact Frances on 01772 603591.

Croston Community Centre

Plans for the refurbishment and extension will be on view at the Centre, Castle Walks on Sunday 14 December 2008, between 1.30pm - 5.30pm. View whilst attending the Christmas Festivities!

Village Green

With the help of a grant of £3600 from Awards for All, works to improve the Village Green will start in the New Year. The two seating areas are to be improved, with additional seats and a community noticeboard being added, together with new paving.

Councillors Kath Almond, Chris Gibbons, John Kearton, Anne Peet and Sally Thompson were responsible for the design of the area and the work is to be carried out by Stephen J Wignall, from Bretherton,



A Chronicle of Croston

Croston based photographer, Justin Nugent, has undertaken a project to record the entire village as it is in 2008/2009, to provide future residents of Croston with a complete pictorial record of how the village looks in our time.

Inspired by the recent Heritage Weekend, Justin was fascinated to see images of the village from as recently as the 1960's which showed very different scenes from those we are used to today and started wondering if anyone was making a record of how the village looked today. The idea is to take photographs around the entire village on a street by street basis and record these alphabetically for easy reference. If anyone has something inside or at the rear of their property that is of particular interest and would like it to be photographed for inclusion in the catalogue please contact Justin directly on 07956 220437 or at justinted@hotmail.com

Thanks

Our thanks, once again, go to Graham and Cath Wilson at Drinkhouse Service Centre for, donating the Christmas Tree.

Also to Chorley Council for the kind donation of a sack of daffodil bulbs, which will be planted by the Scout Group.

Wanted!

As you will have read on the front page, the village was placed second runner-up in this year's North West in Bloom competition. In order to raise the quality of our entry even higher, we would like to form a group of local residents, (preferably with green fingers, although training can be given!), who would meet to plan and oversee next year's entry. Local community involvement is encouraged across all areas of the competition, from designing and planting floral displays, to highlighting and cleaning up 'grot spots'. The Parish Council currently leads the entry with input from a variety of groups across the village but we feel that more could be achieved if a 'Croston in Bloom' working party was formed. If you would like to know more or you would like to volunteer please contact the Clerk, Alan Platt or any member of the Parish Council (contact details on front page).

Speed Indicator Device

The SpID, our shared venture with Heskin and Bretherton Parish Councils, has had to be returned to the manufacturer for repairs. The rota will be revised on it's return.

Croston Old School

Church Street, Croston
01772 603600

We have a variety of rooms available for hire

The Old School Hall

Ideal for parties, conferences, etc
For up to 100 guests with fully equipped kitchen facilities

The Yarrow Room

Ideal for meetings, seminars etc for up to 24 people with drinks facilities

Hiring rates available on request

Generous discounts available to local charitable organisations

Registered Charity No. 1074784
Registered as a company in England & Wales

Cottage Curtains

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52 Grape Lane
Croston
Lancs
PR26 9HB**

Tel: 01772 601187

Mobile: 07748 788501

e-mail: joanlockwood@btinternet.com

Alteration Work Also Undertaken

Second Time Around

310 The Green
Ecclestone
Tel: 01257 453134

Christmas opening 10.00am - 8.00pm on Thursday's throughout December (4th, 11th and 18th). Come along and have a free glass of mulled wine (over 18's only) whilst you shop on any of these late nights.

Gift wrapping service available throughout the month, particularly on the late night openings.

Lots of Christmas ideas, gifts and stocking fillers are now in stock, all for just £1.00, along with a variety of Christmas cards.

Opening times Mon - Sat: 10.00am - 4.00pm, except Thursdays in December.

Lancashire Constabulary



It's the time of year for opportunistic thieves again. Take care of the gifts you buy this Christmas. Don't leave them on view in your vehicle - lock them in the boot, and ensure your vehicle is secure at all times. Also, once you get them home keep them out of sight and ensure your doors and windows are locked. It only takes a second for a thief to enter a house through an unlocked door and steal property.

We will soon have the problems of icy roads - please slow down and don't drive too close to the vehicle in front of you. When defrosting your cars, do not leave engines running and the vehicle unattended. Most insurance companies will not pay out on thefts of cars stolen in this way!!

Finally, whilst on the subject of motoring, please enjoy your Christmas but remember, if you intend to celebrate, please leave your car at home - **Don't drink and drive!**

Please contact us on 0845 1 253545 or via e-mail at: caroline.plummer@lancashirepnn.police.uk or maria.fetherstone@lancashirepnn.police.uk

Croston Village Surgery

Croston Village Surgery, on Out Lane will be open until 8.00pm every Wednesday.

Tel: 01772 600722.

Croston Scout Group

Croston St. Michael's Scouts would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

The Scouts are opening up an Explorer unit in the New Year. This is for the 14 and a half to 18 year olds, so any ex-Scouts or anyone else who's interested please get in touch with Susan Twinn on 01772 601321.

Tots

Tots meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 9-30 - 11-30 am in Croston Community Centre, Castle Walks. New Tots and Adults welcome.

Newsletter Delivery

This newsletter was delivered by Croston Scout Group.

Any local organisations wishing to offer this service, for a charge, contact the Clerk for details of delivery rates.

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items published which are directly attributed to named contributors.

Christmas Festivities

Come along and join in the Christmas Festivities on Sunday 14 December from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

The Festivities begin at 1.30pm with the arrival of Santa, by horse and carriage, and culminating with a torch-lit, carol singing, procession to Croston Park followed by a Carol Service at St Michael's Church.

Attractions during the day will include Santa's Train Ride, Santa's Grotto, Market Stalls, Children's Funfair, Hog Roast, Mulled Wine and Roasted Chestnuts, a raffle with fabulous prizes, Local Brass Band and Community Choir.

The Christmas Festivities have been arranged by the Croston Village Festivities Group, a group of local volunteers, determined to deliver a non-profit making event which brings our community together through the spirit of the festive season.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Group for its efforts.

Advertisements

The Parish Council does not endorse or recommend any of the advertisers contained in this publication.

If you contact any of the advertisers please tell them where you saw their advert.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (Croston)
01772 600239

Police (non-emergency)
0845 1 25 35 45

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

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

0161 228 5685 and
acts of vandalism on:
0800 405040

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

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

0845 0530011

Transco (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 9881188

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