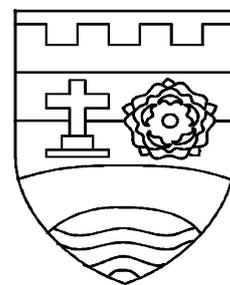


# Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2010

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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[www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Council meetings have returned to their regular time - the second Wednesday of the month, 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 forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk.

## Blooming Marvellous

Once again the Village fared very well in this year's North West in Bloom Competition. Councillors Kath Almond and Anne Peet, along with Beryl Williams from the Croston in Bloom Group, travelled to the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre for the Awards Ceremony on 21 October 2010 to receive a Silver Gilt Award (joint second place behind eventual winners Woolton in Bloom) on behalf of the Village.

Church Street and The Orchard, described as Thriving and Improving respectively, again received awards in the Neighbourhood Awards Ceremony the day before.

(For further details of the North West in Bloom Judge's Report please see separate colour insert).

## Community Flood Plan

Development of the Flood Plan continues at the next meeting on Tuesday 25 January 2011, 7.00 - 9.00pm.

The weather has provided several recent reminders of how important the Plan will be for the Village and all residents, whether directly affected or not, are invited (full details in the colour insert in this newsletter).

Once again we would like to remind residents that flood defence of a property is the responsibility of the householder so, if you may be affected by flooding, or would like further information, or wish to help, come along to the meeting.

## Recreation Ground

We were extremely disappointed that our request for funding to Chorley Council's Play and Recreation Fund to improve the Play Area was turned down.

We have held a site meeting with Chorley Council's Greenspaces Officer who has offered help with ideas for improvements and the preparation of a bid for the next round of funding.

We are very conscious that the Play Area is badly in need of a general brightening up but, at this stage, the advice is not to carry out any short term works on the play area (other than those necessary for health and safety reasons), but instead to work towards getting funding to carry out a major revamp of the entire Recreation Fields area.



Croston Parish Council would like to  
wish all residents a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year



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## **Chairman's Message**

I would like to welcome new Councillor Gillian Stubbs who was co-opted at our October meeting, to fill the vacancy which arose following the resignation of Stephen Bentley.

On 21 October I was pleased to attend the Awards Ceremony for this year's Northwest in Bloom Competition where Croston was awarded a Silver Gilt. A report on the judge's comments can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter but I would like to add my personal thanks to everyone who helped the village achieve such a high award.

The second of a series of meetings looking at putting together a 'Flood Plan' for the village held in October was very well attended. Residents were able to raise a number of issues with representatives from United Utilities and the Environment Agency as well as looking at how we might respond should a severe flooding situation ever arise. I hope the next meeting on January 25 is as well attended.

Christmas will soon be with us and I hope the weather will be kind for the organisers of this year's Christmas Festivities which will take place on 12 December.

On behalf of my fellow Councillor's I would like to wish you all a Happy and peaceful Christmas with our best wishes for the coming New Year.

*Anne Peet*



## **Help make history - Census 2011**

**Next year we will all have the chance to make history when we are asked to build up an accurate picture of life in 2011 as part of the nationwide census.**

There has been a census every 10 years since 1801, except in 1941 because of war time. No one has yet found a better way to build a picture of a diverse and changing population and it gives us a unique historical record of how things have changed since 1801.

The information gathered in a Census is vital to help us in the present day plan for the future. It is the only way to find out how many people there are, how our lives and needs have changed and what services will be needed in our area - it also gives an accurate population count. Many people use the Census information to help with family trees and to build up a social history of an area.

The Census is 27 March 2011, when every household in England and Wales will be asked to fill in a questionnaire on paper or online. There will be 56 questions for you to answer - 14 about your household and its accommodation and 42 for each member of your household.

The answers to all these questions capture a snapshot of the population as it stands on Census day.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Thanks to all who took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service on November 14 .

The 14 May 2011 is the 90th Anniversary. A Family Fun Day, which will run in conjunction with Chorley Council's Picnic in the Park, will take place in Astley Park, Chorley on Sunday 15 May 2011, starting at 10.30 am.

## **Dog Owners.....**

As we get into the dark winter months some inconsiderate dog owners think they can get away with picking up their dog's fouling.

If you spot anyone not picking up after their dog this contact Chorley Council on 01257 515151 with a description of the dog and owner, and any other information you may have.

## Help Your Community Prepare for Flooding

All residents are invited to the next meeting of the Croston Community Flood Action Group on 25 January 2010 at 7.00pm at Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston.

The main purpose of the Group is to ensure our community is prepared for flooding. To help achieve this, local residents are working on their own plan of how they will help themselves and each other during a major flood. For example, people may be willing to help each other move furniture upstairs or help in passing on information from organisations such as the police.

At the next meeting, the group will be building on the first draft of the community flood plan. The first draft was developed from the group's discussions at their first meeting in the summer. Residents will now need to work with their neighbours to develop individual plans for specific streets based on the overall draft plan.

The more people who are involved, either because they live in a flood risk area or



Previous flooding in the village

are willing to volunteer their help during a major flood, the better. So, please come along to the meeting and get involved in planning how you and your neighbours can help each other.

In the meantime, further information on flood risk and preparing for flooding is available by calling the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or by going to their website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest)



Come along and join in the Christmas Festivities on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 1.00pm with arrival of Santa and the Cairngorm reindeer.

Santa will be arriving via Out Lane and then will go to the Old School along Town Road. The reindeer will be situated near St. Michaels.

At 5.30pm there will be a torch lit parade to Croston Park, followed by Carol Service at 6.00pm at St Michaels.

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

## Croston St Michaels Scouts

We've had a busy time since the last newsletter - our Scout Section put on a great display for the Harvest Festival in Church.



Some of Cubs and Beavers went on a

Steam Train sleep-over - it was great chugging along behind the steam locomotive. We also saw the Tornado steam train at Bury Station. The Scouts had great fun(?) trying to get comfy on the seats to get some sleep(not much sleep was had though). The two Leaders who went along decided it was an experience to reflect on!



The Beavers went to Waddecar and had a great day making fruit salad, keep-fit activities, assault course and so completing their Outdoor Challenge Badge.

## Croston is growing... (and sewing and baking and pickling)

Saturday 18 September was the day of the first Croston flower produce and crafts show.

The event was staged at Croston Community Centre, on Castle Walks, and featured over 50 classes, including home grown fruit and vegetables in the Produce Section and a range of home made delicacies



of the Best Produce in Show

such as pickled beetroots, chutneys, lemon curds and jams in the Food Classes. Children's Classes such as a miniature garden, Victoria sponge or a Lego model all proved very popular.

Event Organiser Ian Coggin was overwhelmed by the massive turnout for this inaugural event saying "I had no idea if anyone would turn up on Saturday morning but my fears were groundless Croston folk rose to the challenge I set them and entries flooded in".

For further details of the Competition, including plans for next year, contact Ian Coggin on: 07710 035372 or at [ian.coggin@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.coggin@btinternet.com)



# NORTH WEST IN BLOOM

the north west's premier civic prize

## Judge's Report

The North West in Bloom 2010 Judges visited the Village on 29 July 2010 and their report, in awarding a Silver Gilt Medal, highlighted and complemented many features and areas of the village.

In the Horticultural Achievement Section The Old School, Village Green, St Michaels Church, Friends of Croston Station, Chainsaw Carvings, Bishop Chester's Wood, Croston WI's work at the entrance to the Recreation Area, Church Street, front gardens at St Michael's Terrace, carvings throughout the village by Croston Carvers, the quality containers at the river walk and the numerous flower boxes and hanging baskets across the village were all praised.

The Environmental Responsibility Section highlighted the Heritage Trail as "an excellent example of making good use of what you've got", wood sculptures on the Croft Field and the recycling site at the Station. Particularly pleasing to the Council were the Judge's comments that "the Village had a high standard of cleanliness throughout" - further testament to the efforts of our Village Lengthsman, Kevin Greenhalgh.

Trinity and St Michaels School's 'Eco Warriors' drew particular praise in the Community Participation Section with the "very productive vegetable garden which has been providing excellent produce for the School kitchen". Again, in this Section the Judges noted that "it is clear

that the Bloom initiative has wide support within the local community. The entry reflects this growing commitment".

In the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards 2010, Church Street received the following accolades from the Judges on the way to a Level 4 (out of 5) Award: - "an excellent example of community participation. The joint work of residents has transformed the street. The baskets and tubs were many and excellent. Well done to all involved".

Again in the Neighbourhood Awards, the Judges praised residents of 14 - 24 The Orchard for "some very good displays of containers and baskets. The lawns were well maintained. The whole area was very clean and tidy. A very good effort by the residents to brighten up their local area".

The Parish Council would like to thank each and every resident who assisted with this years entry by helping to generally keep the village clean and tidy and providing hanging baskets and other floral displays.

Thanks also to Jamie Carson and the Team at Chorley Council for collecting the 'Clean Up' waste bags.

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## Planning for Chorley's Future

Residents are being given an opportunity to shape the future of where they live, work and visit.

Chorley Council is undertaking a consultation to find out where people would like new schools, houses, shops and businesses to be located or ideas for new cycle routes or public transport in their areas. It also proposes a number of local policies to guide future development.

A spokesperson for Chorley Council, said: "It's vitally important that we plan ahead so we can set aside enough land to secure local jobs, housing and community facilities in years to come.

"To do this we need people who live and work in, or visit, Chorley to tell us what they would like to see happen in the future - not just where they think development could take place, but also areas and facilities that need protecting for people to enjoy and policies to manage this."

Chorley Council is working with South Ribble and Preston City Councils to cover all of the Central Lancashire area. The three authorities have also worked together to produce a joint Core Strategy for Central Lancashire. This document is also being made available for comments.

The Council received almost 400 suggestions for the future use of land in the borough and now needs to start a discussion around these sites to see what local people think. The lists of sites are just suggestions and no decisions have yet been made on the final list.

Until the end of January, copies of the discussion paper can be viewed online at [www.chorley.gov.uk/planning](http://www.chorley.gov.uk/planning), at your local library, or at post offices in villages with no library.

A final 'Sites for Chorley' Development Plan Document will be produced next year and once adopted, it will form part of the Local Development Framework, replacing the existing Local Plan.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

"I forgot half the tent", "I hate walking", "my boots leak", "my back aches", "are we there yet?" are some of the comments most frequently heard on a Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Awards Expedition

"Isn't it beautiful!", "I've had a great time", "I love camping" and "Thanks" are some of the less frequently heard comments but thankfully still happen now and then.

Being a D of E voluntary leader at Eccleston Youth Centre has to be one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever undertaken. Like all jobs, it sometimes feels like I am banging my head against a brick wall but then the support you receive from fellow leaders and the participants brings everything back to perspective.

Whilst not only providing bronze and silver levels of Award, Eccleston Unit has continued to grow to meet the demands of the young people of Eccleston and Croston and has, for the first time this year, seen 14 (now not so young) participants complete their Gold Award.

The Unit, which meets on a Monday night at Eccleston Youth Centre, continues to provide this excellent service to young people thanks to the dedicated team of voluntary staff who keep the Unit alive.

I love being involved with the unit. To see the happy, smiling faces never ceases to bring joy knowing you were a part of it.

If you have some spare time and would like to support the Unit, feel free to call in on a Monday evening between 7.30 and 9.30pm to find out what we are all about.

*Kirsten Bradley*



## Croston Old School

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## Local Businesses

If you would like to reach around 1250 households in the village via the Parish Council newsletter contact the Clerk (details on p1).

We can offer **full colour** ads in the colour insert. A half column ad costs £30 (£45 colour) and a quarter column £15 (£22.50).

## Lancashire Constabulary

If you have any information with regards to any crime or suspicious activity, please either contact the police direct or pass on information via Crimestoppers - both numbers are shown in the Useful Telephone Numbers box (below).



There is still an area of concern with the number of people riding bikes without lights. If you have children/youths who regularly ride bikes, please ensure they have working lights fitted.

With the cold weather in mind and whilst defrosting your vehicles, please do not leave your engine running when you are not with the vehicle - opportunist thieves love this time of year because you warm your car up for them to jump into and drive off. Should this happen to you despite our warnings, your insurance will not pay out!

A last word of warning, with Christmas nearly on us, make sure you do not leave gifts in the car or in view from a window and also please make sure you do not advertise your gifts to would be thieves by leaving boxes and packaging on show outside your house awaiting refuse collection.

The next PACT meetings are:

2.00pm, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011 at  
Croston Police Office

7.00pm, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February at The  
Old School, Ulnes Walton

7.30pm, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at  
Bretherton School

2.00pm, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Croston  
Police Office

If you have any queries with regards to this article or any problems please do not hesitate to contact us on:

0845 1 25 35 45 or by e-mail at:

[caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)  
[maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

## Tots Group

From Tots on Tuesday and Thursday can we wish everyone Happy Christmas and we look forward to meeting new tots and adults in the New Year.

We meet on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 9-30-11-30 am in the Community Centre, Castle Walks

The closing date for receipt of articles/adverts for the next newsletter is 11 February 2011

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

## Useful Telephone Numbers

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

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and acts of vandalism on:  
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Environment Agency  
Floodline 0845 988 1188