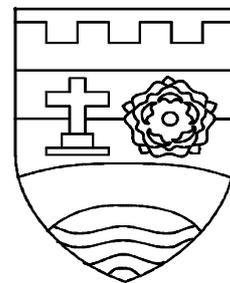


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2012

Councillors

	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	01257 453702
Peter Fenemore	600572
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Eva Norris	
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.

Success

On 25 October 2012, at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre, Councillors Kath Almond and Anne Peet were presented with a Silver Gilt Award in this year's North West in Bloom Competition on behalf of the Village.

The previous day Kath had attended the Royal Horticultural Society It's Your Neighbourhood Awards Ceremony to find Church Street, The Friends of Croston Station and The Orchard received Neighbourhood Awards.

This year's awards are even more impressive, given that judging took place on 23 July, when parts of the village were suffering from the aftermath of the severe flooding.

We would like to thank all residents and local businesses who contributed towards the success by providing floral displays, hanging baskets etc for their properties - your contribution was noticed by the Judges.

The success was not repeated in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition, although Croston did achieve a creditable 6th place in the Champion Village Class. The Cornmill was Highly Commended in the Industrial/Commercial Category and James Alexander, the Beer Garden of the Black Horse and the War Memorial were also singled out for praise by the Judges. The floral displays at the station were described as enhancing the area which was well cared for, clean and tidy.

The Judge's commented that, "considering how the flooding and adverse had affected the village, it was remarkably tidy. The residents had obviously worked very hard to restore the village to its pre-flood condition. The village was mainly litter free, especially the village centre. St. Michaels and All Angels Church and grounds were very well cared for and a credit to those who maintain them and Croston Old School was also in good order".

Again, our thanks to all residents and businesses for their help.

New Councillor

We'd like to welcome to Eva Norris, who was co-opted onto the Council at the meeting in October, and also to thank the unsuccessful candidates for their interest.



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



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.

Nicholsons

Ligan House, 32 Town Road, Croston

Tel: 01772 601700

Friendly Local Solicitors Est. 1992

Specialised areas
Wills and Probate
Lasting Power of Attorneys
Matrimonial

We are proud to sponsor local ventures and charities

Home/Hospital/Nursing Home appointments and out of hours appointments can be arranged

Please telephone for a free initial appointment

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

Looking for a home to rent?

then visit
www.selectmove.co.uk

Housing Associations with properties in Chorley, Preston and South Ribble advertise vacancies weekly on the Select Move website.

If you don't have a computer at home you can use the computers in public libraries.

If you need help or advice phone 0800 655 6578

Hooves and Paws

Fully Insured Dog Walking

and

Horse Care Service

 BHS NVQ Level 1 Horse Care 

Dog boarding available

 Prices available on request 

Service by appointment only

 References available on request 

Covering Croston and surrounding villages

 Ellen Peet 

Tel: 07704 884700

email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman's Report

I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to Eva Norris who was co-opted onto the Parish Council at our October meeting.

As I write this message it is once again raining heavily and the river is once again in full flow. It was wonderful to see so many residents at the recent meeting regarding the flooding in the village. I believe over 60 residents put their names forward as volunteers for the Flood Action Group.

For those who were not able to attend the meeting or who left before the final session here is a summary of the work the Environment Agency will be undertaking from January 2013.

- Replacement of the wooden flood gate to the rear of 46 Town Road.
- Pointing of brickwork and refilling of expansion joints to the river wall on the landward side downstream of Fishery Bridge and Town Bridge.
- Fitting 32 new flap valves within the village and the inspection and greasing of 50 more - this work follows a study by LCC into the condition of the rainwater outlets.

All the above work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2013.

The Environment Agency is also in the very early stages of researching the options for a flood alleviation scheme for the village and it was pleasing to hear that LCC, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Chorley Borough Council are all working together to seek solutions to our flooding problems.

On a happier note, I recently attended the presentation ceremony for the North West in Bloom competition alongside my fellow councillor Kath Almond where we were delighted to receive a Silver Gilt Award on behalf of the village. The previous day also saw the village pick up 3 Neighbourhood Awards for Church Street, Croston Station and No's 14 -24 The Orchard. This is a very impressive achievement given the problems we have experienced this summer.

Christmas is almost upon us and I hope the weather relents in time for the many planned village events. We are very fortunate to have some many residents who are prepared to give up some of their very precious spare time to organise to organise and run these wonderful occasions. Thank you to you all.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne Peet

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner

Following the election on 15 November, Clive Grunshaw has been elected as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lancashire, replacing the current Police Authority. The PCC will hold the Chief Constable to account and be the voice of the County when it comes to issues of crime and policing.

For up to date information and news and to sign up for newsletters from the Police and Crime Commissioner, visit the website:

www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk

Celebrating 40 years at Pre-school

On 7 February 2013 Croston Pre-school will be celebrating its 40th Birthday. Pre-school began life as a small playgroup organised by Mrs Hanson, the wife of the Methodist minister, in the front room of her home in Croston. It proved so popular that before long we moved to the vestry of St Michael's Church where it began to thrive. In 1981 the playgroup moved to Croston Sports Club initially using the function room before moving to the old Cricket Pavilion. We went from strength to strength but were devastated when, in November 1991, our home and its entire contents were burnt to the ground in an arson attack.

After a short spell in the Tennis Clubhouse, we moved to the Over 60's Club on Castle Walks where the Committee embarked on a massive fundraising effort in the hope of finding a new permanent home. Finally in April 2001 we moved into our wonderful venue in the east wing of Croston Old School.

Many of the children now attending pre-school are the children of parents who attended the original playgroup and it won't be long before a 3rd generation of children come through our doors.

We are planning a number of special events to celebrate our birthday including a 'Celebration Evening' for invited guests. If you worked at Pre-school or were ever a member of the Committee and you would like to be included on our guest list please get in touch by phone or email. (01772 601241 or crostonpre-school@tiscali.co.uk).



Remembrance Sunday

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by the alteration to the start time published in the September newsletter. The Police were unable to provide road closure cover at our traditional time so the start time had to be brought forward. On the positive side we had a fantastic turnout and would like to thank everyone for taking part, especially the village's Uniformed Organisations and pupils from Trinity and St Michaels - we do need the younger people of the village to continue the tradition. Thanks also to the Police for their assistance.

To date, over £1700 has been collected for the Poppy Appeal - an increase of over £200 on last years figure. A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity.



Recycling Collection Calendars

Chorley Council will shortly be delivering the new Recycling Collection Calendars for 2013 along with your recycle collection.



If you haven't received one before Christmas contact Chorley Council on 01257 515151 or email chorley.gov.uk



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



Croston Pre-School

Nurturing the future



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

Coming in Spring 2013

★ **Friday 8 Feb** ★
Tim Chu

Friday 19 April
Kieran Halpen

Sunday 2 June
Chris Bannister & Steve Weisberg

Further details can be found on our website:
www.croston-old-school.org



Rooms available to hire

Generous discounts to local charities

[e: crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:e:crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk)

t: 01772 603600

Registered Charity no. 1074784

We Miss YEW!

Anyone who uses the railway in Croston cannot fail to have seen the huge gap left where the yew tree on the disused platform stood. The tree was cut down by Network Rail after it began to die back over the summer.

The Friends of Croston Station were extremely sad to see the tree go, it was the only evergreen on the platform, but they are hoping to put a replacement in from the Tree Spree this winter.



Dave Sandwell and John McIntyre struggle with a root

In this years North West in Bloom competition, the station won an 'Improving Award' in the Neighbourhood Section for their work they are doing to the disused platform. They meet on Sundays at 11:00 am, weather permitting, and work just for an hour or so. They are hoping, eventually, to unearth and re-lay the old paving blocks, put in a small retaining wall, and fill the banking with shrubs and flowers, as they did on the car park.

It is very slow work, and if anyone has an hour or so to spare on Sundays and would like to join the Friends, they would be most welcome. The pay isn't very good, but the camaraderie makes up for it!

For further information contact Kath Almond on 01772 600368.

Remember to Recycle

With Christmas approaching we would, once again, ask everyone to recycle as much as they can.

The cardboard packaging from presents will be collected by Chorley Council as part of your normal recycling collection, as will the empty wine, spirit and beer bottles, cans and paper. Also, we are fortunate to have a Tetrapak recycling facility on the Station car park and, don't forget, many supermarkets offer Christmas card recycling facilities.

Here is a quick guide (not a comprehensive list so check packaging for the recyclable sign). Lancashire currently has facilities for recycling clear plastic bottles made from the following categories of plastics:

 **PET/PETE** (polyethylene terephthalate) - drinks bottles.

 **HDPE** (high density polyethylene) - milk/washing-up liquids

If you're wondering "why recycle" just remember (amongst other things) recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a colour TV for around 15 minutes, 70% less energy is required to recycle paper than making it from raw materials, the energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle will power a 60W light bulb for six hours, if all the aluminium cans sold in the UK were recycled, there would be 14 million fewer full dustbins each year and it takes just 25 two litre drink bottles to make one adult size fleece (source uk energysaving.com).

CROSTON ACORNS

NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

We currently have places available in our Pre-School from January!!

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

We also have very limited places available in both our Baby room and our 2-3 age room

Our mission is to provide a happy and safe environment for children on their learning journey

We are registered with Ofsted to provide childcare for up to 49 children per day for 51 weeks per annum.

We have a cosy 'Home from Home' Baby Room that can take 12 children, an inviting and engaging 2-3 age room that can take 14 children and a fantastic Pre-School that can take 23 children a day.

Home cooked meals served daily by our kitchen staff.

All our Nursery Nurses are qualified to a minimum level 3 with a number of them being qualified as highly as degree level.

Please contact us by phone 01772 601074 or

email crostonacorns@btconnect.com to book an appointment to look round our fantastic newly opened nursery.

Dob Bridge Cottage
Brickcroft Lane
Croston
Nr Leyland
PR26 9AA



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.

Flood Action Group

On Monday 19 November over 100 residents assembled to try to strengthen the spirit of co-operation shown during the recent flood events in Croston and to build on public feeling to improve efforts to prevent and react to future flood events. There were two specific aims:

To set up a Flood Action Group (FAG), with a constitution to make it easier to fight the "buck passing" (between the local councils, the Environment Agency (EA) and United Utilities (UU) and to become eligible for grants, tax relief and effective insurance for volunteers to help prevent and deal with future floods and:-

within the Flood Action Group, to better help volunteers to operate the Emergency Flood Plan.

The June flood caused damage to 70 or so Croston homes. The worst hit areas were in Church Street and Town Road, where comments about the river "bursting its banks" are over dramatic and unhelpful. The floodwaters were a mixture of releases from over pressurised sewers, local runoff and backflows from the river. Sewage contamination has significantly increased distress and remedial costs for affected residents.

With past and continuing property development in the Yarrow valley, flood alerts and actual flooding in Croston have been more frequent. The responsible agencies (CBC, LCC, EA & UU) were urgently requested to work together to:

Significantly reduce river surge levels through Croston.

Prevent sewage discharges into homes, gardens/play areas and pavements/roads.

Prevent the flow of river water into residences and onto roads.

Resume maintenance of channels/banks to reinstate the capacity of the Yarrow/Lostock/Douglas river system downstream of Croston.

A call to set up a "constituted" Flood Action Group received clear support at the meeting. More volunteers were invited to help the Emergency Flood Plan for the next flood. Comments from invited observers (CBC, LCC, EA, UU and neighbouring Rufford/Holmeswood Flood Action Group), confirmed their support to improve the flood defences for Croston and their intentions to cooperate in combined actions to achieve this.

Peter Fenemore

Free support from Age UK Lancashire

If you, or someone you know, has recently been ill, come home from hospital, had a fall, been bereaved, feeling lonely or isolated, or are finding daily tasks a struggle, Age UK Lancashire may be able to help. Offering FREE short term support to older people in Chorley, Age UK Lancashire can help get you back on your feet, regain your confidence and retain your independence.

Age UK Lancashire can offer both practical and emotional support. Help offered may include assistance with shopping and light housework, health appointments, home safety checks and information and advice.

To find out if we can help call 01257 479024

email chorley@ageuklancs.org.uk

or call at local rate on 0300 303 1234

Need a professional website? Computer Problems?

Call Technohow for local, reliable support with all aspects of your home and small business IT needs. Serving Mawdesley and the surrounding villages.

Services include:

- Web Design and hosting
- Home pickup and return as standard
- PC tune-ups and repairs at competitive rates
- Virus and Malware removal
- Home entertainment systems
- Wireless and wired networking
- Hardware Installation/Upgrades
- Remote and/or on-site support
- Support Contracts
- Video to DVD transfers



Contact Technohow:

Ansaphone: 01704 822874

Mobile: 07777 631689

Email: neil@technohow.co.uk

Website: www.technohow.co.uk

Twin Lakes Motor Engineers

Unit 13
Twin Lakes Industrial Park
Bretherton Road
Croston
PR26 9RF

Service & Repairs on all makes and models of vans, cars & motorbikes

Reliable & experienced mechanic offering a high quality service at competitive rates

Call in for your FREE winter check

10% OFF labour charges on your 1st visit
(Quote Twin1)

Call Phil on:

01772 603923/ 07749743147

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

In the run up to Christmas security of properties is very important. Please make sure you do not leave gifts in the car or in view from a window at home.

There has been a spate of cycle thefts, so please make sure all cycles are locked away - also, with the darker nights, everyone should be seen and be safe when riding a bicycle at night, so lights are a must have and helmets are recommended too.

Local businesses are asked to be vigilant in the run up to Christmas, as this is the peak time for thefts. Please report anything suspicious to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Don't leave cars unattended on drives or roads whilst defrosting.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

*PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone
Croston, Bretherton and Ulnes Walton*



Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Winter Safety

With the winter fast approaching, many of us are spending more time indoors, tucked away from the cold trying to keep our homes warm and cosy. However, winter can bring along many risks and often leads to an increase in accidental house fires. We regularly see an increase of fires in the home caused by unsafe heating, open fires, blocked chimneys, candles and overloaded electrical sockets caused by extra appliances and Christmas decorations used during the winter period.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service aims to reduce the amount of fires and resulting injuries and will provide information on how to keep you and your home safer this winter. Our FREE home fire safety visits offer help and advice on how to prevent fires from occurring, it also provides life saving information of what to do if a fire does occur. During our visit we will also fit 10 year smoke alarms FREE of charge if required.

Please also take the time this winter to think of the safety of your neighbours, particularly the elderly who may not be able to get out of the house in poor weather or who are using unsafe methods to heat their homes. Are they safe? Do they have smoke alarms? If not we can help!

To request your free home fire safety check please call Sandra Alty on 01257 266844 or 07920 291867 quoting reference SA053. All visits are completed by Fire Service Personnel who will show ID cards on arrival.

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

Right at Home

In Home Care & Assistance

Our services include:

- Companionship
- Post-operative support
- Transportation & errands
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- 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@rightathome.co.uk

Right at Home is registered with the Care Quality Commission

Croston Community Centre

The Community Centre has finally reopened following the floods back in June.

Zumba is back from Wednesday 5th December and the Centre will be fully functional for the Christmas Market.

THURSDAY TOTS

restart December 6th

9-30-11-30am in the

Community Centre, Castle Walks

Croston St Michaels Scouts

would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas

For information on the Scouts please contact Susan on 01772 601321.

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