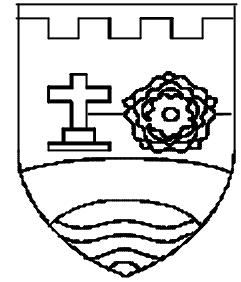


# Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2008

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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[crostonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:crostonpc@btinternet.com)

website:

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

Parish Council Meetings are held on the 2nd 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 Councillors for details. Prices are £30 for a half column and £15 for a quarter column.

## Council Tax 2008/09

The Parish Precept for 2008-09 will show an increase in the amount payable by council tax payers. Band D properties will pay £21.17 as opposed to £20.20, an increase of 97p over the whole year.

Services provided by the Parish Council from the Parish Precept include the Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes through the village, the ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area, the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and several of the grass verges throughout the village. The Christmas Tree and lights, spring and summer planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats, emptying of dog waste bins and the relevant insurance cover are all also provided by the Parish Council.

Additional funding has been set aside for the deployment of the Speed Indicator Device, purchased as a joint venture in conjunction with Heskin and Ulnes Walton Parish Council, which will be operated on a shared basis with our partners.

## Water, Water Everywhere!!

The heavy rains on Monday 21 January brought the worst flooding in the Village for 20 years with Carvers Brow, Church Street, Grape Lane and Town Road among the worst-hit areas.

Our sincere thanks go to the Chorley Council Emergency Planning Team, who were present throughout the day looking to the welfare of residents. Also to Employees of the Streetscene Section, based at the Bengal Street Depot, who filled and delivered sandbags throughout the day and Lancashire County Council Officers who were also present.

The Parish Council has asked Lancashire County Council to increase the frequency of gully cleaning throughout the Village. Whilst we acknowledge this will have little or no impact on incidents such as this it should improve the situation under less severe circumstances. Other measures are to be, or already have been, carried out including the desilting of sewers on Grape Lane and the reclamation of surface water drains on Shevington Causeway, which had long since disappeared under a mountain of soil, mud etc.

Meetings have been held at Chorley Council with the Environment Agency, and attended by Borough Councillor Margaret Iddon, to seek a viable solution to the problem.



Fresco Fresco  
29-31 Town Road  
Croston  
PR26 9RA

[www.frescofresco.co.uk](http://www.frescofresco.co.uk)

Tel: 01772 601100

Midweek Special Offer  
Tuesday and Wednesday evenings

3 Course Sunday Special Menu  
available all day Sunday

Italian Cuisine with a  
Calabrian influence

Delicious food comes as standard with  
seasonal, fresh, locally sourced  
produce



### Local Businesses

You can reach over 1200 homes within the village by advertising in the Parish Council newsletter.

Prices for adverts are £30 for a half column and £15 for a quarter column.

For further details contact the Clerk on 01257 234003, or by email to:

[crostonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:crostonpc@btinternet.com)

### Advertisements

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

### Newsletter Delivery

This newsletter was delivered by members of Croston Sports Club.

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

## Chairman's Message

On 21 January our village became the centre of much media activity as flood water began to rise in several areas. Fortunately the flooding was not too severe with only a small number of homes and premises affected. It was pleasing to see our local authorities, Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council, working together to assist residents who were trying to protect their homes. I would like to thank those residents who helped with the distribution of sand bags to homes in need. Their assistance was much appreciated. There was a great sense of community spirit throughout the day which was a credit to our village. I would also like to extend our thanks to Stuart and Helen at The Grapes who provided warm food and drinks to the members of the Fire Service who were pumping the water away. Hopefully this sort of situation will remain a rare event.

With Spring fast approaching our thoughts now turn to planning the floral displays around the village in preparation for the North West in Bloom competition. If anyone would like help in any way please contact the Clerk. Improvements are planned for both the Village Green and the Recreation Ground.

May I remind all residents that they are very welcome to attend our monthly meetings at the Old School. If you have any questions or concerns this is the ideal time to come along and tell us. As Parish Councillors our role is to act on your behalf but you need to let us know what your concerns are before we can help.

*Anne Peet*

## Neighbourhood Watch 25 years on

**Neighbourhood Watch, as an organisation, reached its 25th birthday in 2007.**

Lancashire Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Chorley & District Neighbourhood Watch Association, as members of the largest voluntary organisation in the UK, are working together to ensure our communities are safer places to live and work.

Statistics show that you are less likely to become a victim of crime, or suffer from anti-social behaviour, if you are a member of a local Neighbourhood Watch. So what is Neighbourhood Watch all about? - it is local communities assuming responsibility for their area and assisting the local Police to make their residences safer. As a resident you are already a local guardian in your area and your local knowledge can be vital in times of emergency.

How do you set up a watch? Simply there is a standard procedure in place where all residents are contacted to ascertain the amount of interest locally to form a watch. On obtaining the required level of interest a local meeting would be arranged with a Crime Prevention Officer, and a local community based Officer present. Once this format has been completed, a new watch can be created.

In the event that Neighbourhood Watch does not already cover your area, why not consider setting up a watch in your area. For further information contact Margaret Rushton, Community Crime Prevention Officer, Chorley Police on 01257 246384.

## Daffodil Bulbs

Chorley Council kindly donated 500 daffodil bulbs which Croston Scout Group planted in the boxes on the river walls.

Our thanks go to Dave Walmsley, at Chorley Council, for arranging the donation and, of course, to the Scouts for their hard work doing the planting.



Hard at work! - Croston Scouts working in the dark to plant the bulbs

## Croston St Michael's Scouts

Happily we can now report a thriving Scout Group, (this time last year the future of scouting in Croston was in the balance) Please may I thank everyone for their support during this difficult time.

A big 'Bravo' goes out to our scout leaders (old and new) for giving freely of their time to run a very successful and varied programme.

One of the latest successes being our scout section who braved the cold to sleep in cardboard boxes on the Village Green (who thought that they were the new starter homes for Croston?). The object was to promote awareness of the work of the charity 'Shelter' and any monies raised are to be donated to its funds.

We always welcome any interest in scouting whether it is as a scout, leader or helper. For more information please get in touch with Susan Twinn, Group Scout Leader on Croston 601321.

## Question Time

Members of Lancashire County Council's Cabinet will be holding an informal 'Question Time' hosted by Dave Guest (BBC TV) at The Old School on Tuesday March 18 2008 at 7.15pm.

Put County Council Leaders under the spotlight. Tell them the issues that concern you.

Let them know what they should be doing to improve the quality of life in Lancashire.

Opportunities to have face-to-face contact with Cabinet Members are few and far between - **PLEASE** take this opportunity - If you don't tell them what's bothering you who else will?

## Listed Monuments

We have had some success in preserving some of the older, items in the Village.

the Croston/Ulnes Walton Boundary Stone has been listed by English Heritage, the Out Lane Street Nameplate is on the List of Locally Important Buildings and the Post Box on Station Road is also protected.

**Chorley Smile Residents are being invited to sign up to a borough - wide civic pride campaign to encourage them to get involved in making a difference to their neighbourhood.**

For more information on the campaign, or to sign up, visit [www.chorley.gov.uk/smile](http://www.chorley.gov.uk/smile). There are many simple things you can agree to do, like not dropping litter or dumping waste, cleaning up after your dog, helping other residents, respecting your neighbours and reporting environmental crime such as fly tipping and graffiti.

## 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

### Bespoke Curtain Service

**Grape Cottage  
52 Grape Lane  
Croston  
Lancs  
PR26 9HB**

Tel: 01772 601187

Mobile: 07748 788501

E-mail: [joanlockwood@btinternet.com](mailto:joanlockwood@btinternet.com)

Alteration Work Also Undertaken

## Croston Directory

**Work is to commence on the updated version of the Croston Directory 2006.**

Entry into the Directory is free to all local businesses and organisations

Any businesses or organisations not listed or having changed any contact details should advise the Clerk (details on page 1).

## Lancashire Constabulary

The first problem is another bogus official incident. On this occasion the offender pretended to be a Police Officer but he didn't show any identification. If anyone calls at your door and you don't know who they are, ask for identification. If they haven't got any - **don't let them in!**

We have received some complaints regarding anti social behaviour by members of our community, and the current hot spot is in and around the Londis shop on Westhead Road. The bin has recently been replaced at a cost of £400 as it was set on fire. Please ensure that, if your children are playing out, they are not causing a nuisance to others in the village and are acting in a sensible manner. We do not want to stop children having fun but, if their behaviour is causing upset to others, we will have no option other than to deal with them accordingly.

We are currently in the process of re vamping the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the area. If you are interested and have not yet received a letter, please contact either Maria or myself on the numbers show. We are planning a meeting in the near future to launch the new schemes and would appreciate as many villagers as possible to support this venture. The meeting time, date and place will be advertised locally and everyone is welcome to attend even if your area already has a scheme in place.

Cath Flett is the new ECSO for our area and she is looking for suitable addresses to conduct home fire checks. This includes smoke alarms being fitted and other fire safety advice. If you think you or someone you know would benefit from this free service, please let us know.

If you have any queries with regards to this article or any problems please do not hesitate to contact us on the following numbers Croston Police Office 01772 600239 or 0845 1 253545, or by e-mail to [caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) or [maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800555111

*Caroline Plummer & Maria Fetherstone*

### Super - Woodworm?

**An inspection of the Village Green noticeboard revealed a couple of holes in the solid oak frame.**

Concerned residents need not worry - they are not the result of super woodworm, the holes were actually a result of someone attaching balloons to the noticeboard using pipe clips. Please could we ask members of the public to exercise a little common sense in future and avoid such actions.

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

### Be Seen - Be Safe

**The Parish Council is currently working with Lancashire County Council to encourage cyclists, pedestrians and runners using country lanes such as Syd Brook Lane, between the Village and Mawdesley/Eccleston to wear high visibility, or at the very least light coloured, clothing.**

We will also be investigating the provision of some indication to motorists that these roads, generally subject to the National Speed Limit, are frequented by other, more vulnerable users and that drivers should take care.



### 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