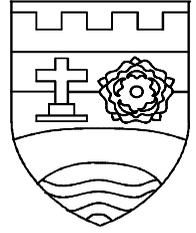


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2014



From this...



To this...

What began with a approach from local Community First Responder, Rodger Smith, and financed largely by a sponsored Pub Quiz, arranged by Parish Councillor Stephen

Parkinson and friend Steven Swift, which raised over £850, has finally resulted in Croston's community defibrillator now being up and running in the BT Payphone Kiosk at the junction of Town Road and Station Road.

The Parish Council funded the balance of the cost and installation and arranged the adoption of the Kiosk from BT to provide the defibrillator with a clean, dry home in the centre of the village.

We now look forward to sometime around April when Rodger will be looking to arrange training for interested residents - keep an eye on the Council notice boards for news of this.

Chairman's Message

At the January meeting the Council set this year's Parish precept at £20,030 which will result in a 0% increase to residents. This was achieved through careful budgeting measures which will enable the council to continue to offer its current level of service.

I am pleased to note that the recent public consultation event organised by the Environment Agency to display their proposed option to reduce the flood risk to the village was very well attended. As the project moves forward to the next stage it is hoped that we do not suffer the flooding currently being experienced elsewhere in the country.

PCSO Maria Featherstone received a grant from the Parish Council in November towards the cost of producing speed awareness signs designed by our local school children to be displayed along the main routes in the village. The signs are now available but Maria informs me that she is experiencing difficulties in persuading residents to allow the signs to be put in their front gardens. If you would like to support this project please contact Maria on 101 or 01257 246103.



The village will, again, be entered into the 2014 North West in Bloom Competition and if you would like to help with the entry please contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk (contact details on back cover)

The village has a long history of success in the competition and, to help continue with this, we would particularly like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with any aspect of the entry, but particularly if you could help out by watering any of the various tubs and boxes around the village - they can be ones which are near your property.

Anne Peet

Nicholsons

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Council Tax Freeze!!

At the January meeting the Council set the Parish Precept for the forthcoming financial year and the good news is that the amount payable by Croston residents will remain the same for 2014-2015.

The Council Tax Base (the figure on which the parish precept is worked) suffered another slight reduction however Chorley Council has, again, provided a top up grant from income received from Central Government and this, coupled with a small reduction in projected spending has allowed the Parish Council to hold the amount payable by residents at last year's level.

From the Precept the Council employs our Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes through the village and our Clerk, ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area and the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and grass verges throughout the village. The Council also provides the Christmas tree and lights on the Village Green, planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats and some litter bins, the Speed Indicator Device, emptying of dog waste bins, the requisite insurance cover and now, the Council has taken responsibility for the community defibrillator and its new home, the BT kiosk.



**Villages
in
Partnership
AGM**



**taking place on
Tuesday 18 March 2014 at
Bateman Hall, Sagar Street,
Eccleston, PR7 5TA.**

All welcome.

**Light refreshments will
be served afterwards**

**For further information
please call 01257 452698**

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**Tel: Ian (01772)
601272**

21 Town Road, Croston





Croston Village Festivities Group

Would you be willing to give just a few hours of your time to helping with the Christmas Festivities in the village? Every little helps, and we especially need additional volunteers on the day.

The dates for the 2014 events are:

Christmas Lights Switch-On **Sunday 30th November**

Christmas Fair **Sunday 14th December**

We will be holding our AGM on **Monday 14th April, at 8.00 pm in the Old School**. Everyone is welcome - do come along and find out more about what we do and how you can help. For further information, contact the Secretary, Brenda Hopper, on 601363.

Just to remind all event organisers in Croston that we have four 4'x2' aluminium topped heatproof tables and four 6'x2' plastic foldable tables that were purchased for village use through a grant awarded by Chorley Community Housing. If you wish to use them for one of your events, please contact Brenda or Alan on 601363.

Need a Professional Website? Computer Problems?

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**Tots Stay and Play
Wed 9:30-11:30**

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or get in touch

crostonpre-school@tiscali.co.uk

www.crostonpreschool.org

01772 601241

Croston Old School



Church Street, Croston, PR26 9HA
email: crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk
www.croston-old-school.org



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surrounding villages



Ellen Peet
Tel: 07704 884700



email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk

Lancashire Time Credits in Chorley

Spice and The Young Foundation are working with Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council to introduce Time Credits to Lancashire, as a way of enabling local people to make a difference in their communities and local services and to recognise the value of their contributions. Time Credits support people to develop their interests and unrealised assets to improve individual wellbeing and build strong and connected communities. The Lancashire Time Credits project is initially operating in Chorley.



How to get involved

If you are interested in finding out more or being involved please get in touch with your local Time Credits Facilitator: Angela Barrago, Chorley Facilitator on 01257

515902 or 07462 595121 or email at angela@justaddspice.org

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Do you want to reach around 1200 households in Croston?

Full colour ads cost £20 (1/4 page), £40 (half page), and £60 (full page).

To advertise in this newsletter contact Alan Platt on 01257 234003 or email crostonpc@btinternet.com for further details.

Croston and District Boules League



If you are interested in a great social night out and have a competitive nature why not join a Boules Team.

Matches are played on Tuesday's and there are several competitions played at various locations throughout the season.

It doesn't matter if you have not played before there are plenty of players with over 15 years of experience that will teach you very quickly, and no need to worry about owning Boules - most teams have spare sets.

If you are interested and over 16, male or female, contact Jo n on 01772 601321 or Peter on 01772 600615.

CROSTON MEDICAL CENTRE

Croston Medical Centre are pleased to announce they had another successful year in 2013.

In September 2013 they had an inspection carried out by the Care Quality Commission and are delighted to have received excellent feedback in all areas.

They invite you to view the full report of the inspection by following the link on their website -

www.crostonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

TOTS GROUPS

New to the village?

Got toddlers?

Looking to get out and make new friends?

Pop along to the Community Centre, Castle Walks, Thursday mornings from 9-30 to 11-30 am where you'll meet mums/dads/carers and, while your toddler plays with the toys or make a crafty item, you can have a chat.

We provide drinks and snacks. All this for £2-00!

If you can't make Thursday why not come along on Wednesday from 9:30am to Croston Old School (near the Church).

Coffee Day

The Coffee Day Committee have been advised that, with effect from this year, the Police will not be providing officers to support the road closures that prevent traffic entering the village while the procession is in progress.

Because of this the Committee have decided to approach local residents and ask for volunteers to support the road closures. It should be emphasised very strongly that unless volunteers can be found the future of Coffee Day with over 150 years of history and tradition is in serious danger of coming to an end.

If you are willing, or if you know of anyone (male or female), who is willing to volunteer, please contact Derek Alty on 01772 600584 or derek@alty01.freeserve.co.uk as soon as possible.

As the problem of the Police supporting road closures is not solely a Coffee Day problem, it is the intention, to develop and organise a "pool" of volunteers so that their services can be used as a village resource in the support of future Croston village events.

Croston Campinologists

There is a small band of men and women in this village without whom Sundays and Mondays would be very different.

They are our Bell ringers, a humble group of people who call us to church on Sunday mornings, and can be heard practising Monday evenings prompt at 8pm.

So much a part of the community, villagers have been known to ring distant family and friends at 8pm on Mondays just so the familiar peal can be heard.

So a big **THANKYOU** to this little band who keep the tradition of bell-ringing going in our community.

Beginners are welcome. If anyone wishes to join the bell ringers, please contact Robert Hough on 01772 814337.



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Email: crostonacorns@btconnect.com

Dob Bridge Cottage, Brickcroft Lane, Croston, Leyland, PR26 9AA

Please Book Early To Avoid Disappointment!



Friends of Croston Recreation Ground



The Friends are continuing to work to raise funds for the improvement scheme for Croston Rec.

Several events have been held recently with a Jumble Sale raising, a Pub Quiz Pub Crawl and a Pop Up Restaurant raising around £1500. Huge thanks to everyone who took part.

If you have a great fund raising idea (large or small) or can help with fund raising in any way, please visit <http://crostonrec.btck.co.uk/> email the FoCRG team on crostonrec@hotmail.com or phone 07501 474550.

Interested in Cycling?

Croston Cycling Club - West Lancashire's Newest Cycling Club is holding a Start Up Meeting at 8:00pm on 20 March 2014 at Croston Sports Club.

All riders welcome aged 16+.



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is alive and well in Croston. Whilst times have changed with cutbacks in Police funding, NHW continues to function with the massive support of our volunteers. Chorley and the surrounding villages are supported by the Chorley &

District Neighbourhood Watch Association (CADNWA).

If you are interested to know if there is an established Watch local to where you live, wish to know more about NHW or would like to set up a new Watch, please contact Lynn Wareing on 01257246384 or by email to lynn.wareing@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Beware - Scams

Be on the lookout for scams in the local area. We've had reports of phone calls offering to help with incorrect council tax banding, for a fee - what the callers are doing is not illegal however residents can get the same information for free by contacting Chorley Council.

Let us know if you come across any similar scams.

Lancashire Constabulary



There have been a number of complaints about a male selling mattresses from the rear of a Transit Van. We strongly recommend that you never buy from doorstep sellers and report all instances to the Police on 101.

Following on from the severe storms recently, there will be opportunist rogues knocking on doors and offering repair services for damaged roofs etc. Again, please do not agree to have work done by anyone knocking on your door. Get a vehicle registration number if possible or the company name on the vehicle if there is one, and report it to the Police on 101.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

Protect your gadgets and other electrical items?

Register them for **free** on the national property register via www.immobilise.com

Registration only takes a couple minutes and should you lose or have property stolen and it is recovered, it allows all police forces to identify an item and return it to the rightful owner.

Anything from your TV to your Toaster can be registered on Immobilise for more information please visit **www.immobilise.com** or **www.lancashirepolice.uk/helpandadvice/advise/immobilise-property-database**

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Contact Details

Councillors

Tel

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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.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (non-emergency) 101

Coppull Police Station
01257 246103

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

Notice boards

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.