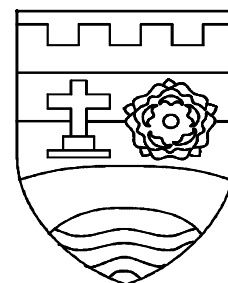


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



September 2011

Councillors

	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	600482
Peter Fenemore	600572
John Forrest	601216
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
Paul Walmsley	

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.

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.

Recreation Ground

Officers from Chorley Council and Lancashire Wildlife Trust are assisting the Parish Council with the project to improve the Recreation Ground. Their assistance will enable us to make another application to Chorley Council's Play and Recreation Fund and may also highlight other sources of funding.

A Working Group, comprising of residents and Councillors, will come up with suggestions and designs for the area, which will, hopefully, include a small number of allotments on the northern boundary to the Field. The Group will look at the current play area and equipment and see whether a recent request for skate park equipment can be incorporated

The entrance area with the five bar gate will be revamped, with a pedestrian gate being installed and the two trees which obscure the view of the play area removed for security purposes.

The Council is well aware of the need to improve the Play Area however the vast majority of funders require either match funding or a significant contribution for the applicant. The Council has considered cosmetic improvements to the Area but decided it is preferable to retain the funds to support grant applications.

Competition Entries

We are waiting for the results of this year's North West in Bloom and Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competitions to be announced.

Judging for this year's North West in Bloom Competition took place in July 2011 and the second round of judging for the Best Kept Village was carried out in early August with Croston Park Nursing Home and the War Memorial being in line for a place in the final.

Be a Bright Spark

Residents are being urged to be 'Bright Sparx' and stay safe over Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night.

Youngsters will be going out trick or treating on October 31 and bonfires will be held on November 5, so the message being given out by Chorley Council along with the Police and Fire Service is: "Have fun - but stay safe". We also want them to think of others and the consequences of their actions. Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night are not an excuse for anti-social behaviour and causing trouble.

Parents - please be aware of where your children are and ensure they don't buy or take eggs and flour out from your house over Hallowe'en and the other message to people is to attend an official, organised bonfire event and have fun, but stay safe.

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Annual Report

I would like to welcome Robert Baker back to the Parish Council and to extend a warm welcome to our newest co-opted member Paul Walmesley. We now have a full Council again.

As I write this message we have received news that the village has reached the final round of the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition. We are also awaiting news of the judges vote in the North West in Bloom competition following their recent tour of the village. I would like to thank all those volunteers who work with various organisations in the village on small projects to improve grot spots and improve the general appearance of our environment.

Unfortunately two buildings in the village have been targeted by lead thieves in recent months. Croston Old School has had 5 separate incidents and the Almshouses on Drinkhouse Road have also been targeted. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks to our retired Community Beat Manager PC Caroline Plummer. We wish her well and thank her for all her efforts over the past few years. We also welcome PC Loz Elphic who will be taking over her work. Congratulations must also go to PCSO Maria Featherstone who recently received the PCSO of the Year Award.

Anne Peet

Road Closure News

Moor Road will be closed from 07:00 hours on Monday 24 October 2011 until 17:00 hours on Friday 28 October 2011 to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

The diversion route is via Station Road, Town Road and Highfield Road and vice versa.

Lancashire County Council has also announced provisional plans to close Meadow Lane (A581) at Great Hanging Bridge and Little Hanging Bridge from 07:00 hours on Monday 9 January 2012 until 17:00 hours on Friday 11 May 2012 to allow bridge strengthening works to be carried out to Great Hanging Bridge and replacement works at Little Hanging Bridge.

Proposed diversion routes to and from the A59 roundabout at Tarleton are via Bretherton (eastbound) and via Ulmes Walton, Leyland and Bretherton (westbound). HGV's will be advised to use the A49/A5209.

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

Forest School Returns

Thanks to Lancashire County Council, Chorley Partnership Early Intervention Small Grants Fund and the Ernest Cook Trust, VIP are able to support FREE weekly Forest School activities in Bishop Chester's Wood in Croston.

Playing in the outdoors in all weathers, children will have the opportunity to discover, investigate and learn within the natural environment. Enjoy the outdoors, watch the seasons change and discover wildlife, while they develop on a personal level, physically and emotionally. Aimed at preschool children during term time and all ages during the holidays.

"Forest School in Croston" will post details on Facebook of the upcoming activities available to families. Alternatively contact Gill Otterburn 01772 601799.

Croston has made it to Facebook

Search for @CrostonNews or go to: www.facebook.com/crostonnews

It's the first place to look to find out what's on in Croston with events, links and local information.

Speed Indication Device

The new SID is up and running and logging information regarding vehicle speeds on three sites around the village.

County Councillor Mike Otter, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Parishes, very kindly provided a grant of £550 towards the cost of the Device and the Parish Council would like to thank him for this.



County Councillor Mike Otter presenting the cheque to Parish Council Chairman Anne Peet

Croston Station

Anyone travelling on the train recently will have noticed work being done on the disused platform.

The Friends of Croston Station have received permission from Network Rail to improve the old platform, neglected since closure after the Beeching cuts of the 1960's. The Group are slowly clearing the area to see how much of the old platform remains, before making it tidy.

The recycling firm Veolia are helping by removing all the debris and overgrowth.

On the platform side plants are still needed, so if anyone has unwanted plants, please contact Kath Almond on 600368 for collection.

We have had reports that some days the car park is full and rail travellers have to park on the roadside or in front of the De Trafford. If you have any details of this occurring please let us know on the above number.

The Group meets monthly every third Sunday at 11:00am. Volunteers more than welcome.

Remembrance Sunday 2011

This year's Parade will take place on 13 November 2011. We will leave Croston Old School at 2.30pm for a short service at the War Memorial followed by the Service of Remembrance at 3.00pm at St Michaels and All Angels Church. Following the Service everyone is invited back to The Old School for tea, coffee and biscuits.

If you can spare time between 30 October and 14 November for Door-to-Door Collecting, or you have a business and are willing to have a poppy tray and collection box please contact Alan on 01257 234003 or via email at crostonpc@btinternet.com



Part of the clearance work on the platform



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10 Croston Old School

the First 10 Years



It is now 10 years since the former infant school received a new lease of life through refurbishment totalling £520,000 through grants and local fund-raising. The much needed community resource centre is now a focal point for local groups, instructional classes, entertainment and a variety of social events. The south wing of the building is home to Croston Pre-school where children from 2 years old, up until school age attend.



The hub of the centre is the main hall which in recent years has seen an increase in private functions. Being literally a stone's throw from St. Michael's church, the recent addition of licensed bar facilities now give Croston a real alternative to out-of-village venues for

wedding receptions, birthday parties, concerts and art events. Conference and meeting facilities are supplemented by the Yarrow and Belfry meeting rooms, an exhibition room and there is a fully equipped kitchen. Recently both wired and wi-fi internet access have been installed throughout the centre.

This autumn's entertainment starts with 3 BOXES



Local groups who use the centre on a regular basis include: Croston Quilters, Woodcarvers, Women's Institute, Chess club, Dance classes, Conversational French class, Croston Parish Council, Meditation class, Lancashire college.

Anyone wishing to find out more about whats on offer at the Old School can look at the Old School web site or visit their facebook page.

Autumn entertainment

Friday 30th September

3 Boxes - Three of Guitar Player's "1,000 Great Guitarists" show instrumental prowess - an eclectic and original take on folk, jazz, swing, rock 'n' roll, pop, classical and all points in between...

Website: www.3boxes.co.uk

Tickets **£12.00**

Friday 11th November

The Houghton Weavers -

"Sit Thi Deawn" for an evening of Lancashire song and humour

Website: www.houghtonweavers.com

Tickets **£10.00**

Friday 9th December

A Medieval Christmas - with Tapestry of Music

Get warmed up for the festive season with song, music and dance

Website: www.tapestryofmusic.musicnw.co.uk

Tickets **£10.00**

doors open 7.15pm
start 8.00pm
Licensed Bar

Tickets available from 'Favourites', Town Road, Croston 01772 600142

or Croston Old School 01772 603600 or 07785 971 951

Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston, Leyland PR26 9HA

01772 603600

Website: www.croston-old-school.org

Email: crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk

It's Your Property

Next time you walk down Castle Walks and pass the long black wooden building with the colourful hanging baskets dangling outside why not call in - after all, it does belong to you. Originally owned by the British Legion, the Centre is now the property of all the residents of Croston.

Does your child enjoys going to 'tots', 'beavers', 'cubs', or 'scouts'? Do you look forward to the Zumba, Dance or Karate classes? Are you one of the many residents who attend the Over 60's? or learning new skills in the computer suite? If the answer to any of these is 'Yes' you are obviously taking advantage of your Centre.

If not, just think what you could use your hall for: meetings, parties, organising courses, drama productions. A small charge of £8 an hour is levied for the use of the hall to contribute toward maintenance, but the Committee managing the Centre on your behalf also tries to obtain other funding from as many different sources as possible.

Recently a grant of nearly £7000 was secured from 'Awards for All'. This is your money so if you are interested in joining the committee you can help us spend it. Presently we are planning to continue the refurbishment of the kitchen and purchase equipment to revitalise the traditional wooden sprung floor that is so appreciated by our energetic users. You may have other ideas; if so you can contact us through the VIP office (01772 603591).

Coffee Mornings

Villages in Partnership holds monthly Coffee Mornings in the Community Centre.

Please look out for dates which are displayed in the Parish Council Notice Boards - raffle, tombola and a wide variety of stalls. Well worth a visit!!

Keep Your Right to Vote

Residents are being urged to return their electoral registration forms being delivered by Chorley Council between now and October.

Householders are required, by law, to provide the information requested on the forms and, even if there are no changes since last year, you still need to provide it.

Whether it is Local Borough or Parish, General or European elections, householders will not be able to vote if they are not on the register. Not being registered can also affect credit ratings and your ability to take out loans, mortgages or other credit facilities such as mobile phone contracts.

For further information contact Chorley Council on 01257 515151 email to contact@chorley.gov.uk or visit the website at www.chorley.gov.uk

Cavity Wall/Loft Isulation

To help you beat the rise in energy prices Chorley Council is offering grants to help you insulate your home.

As part of our commitment to Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth, they are working with **Rheingold Insulations** to provide your home with loft and/or cavity wall insulation.

Under our **CHEERS** initiative (Chorley Home Energy Efficiency Raising Scheme) discounted prices are currently available, from **£89** for cavity wall insulation and **£89** for loft insulation. If you are a householder or tenant renting from a private landlord, and you are in receipt of qualifying benefits, you may be able to receive insulation **free of charge**.

Funds will be limited, so please contact Chorley Council on 01257 515151 to register your interest in this scheme.

Closing date for articles/adverts for the next newsletter is 11 December 2011

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

Rooms available to hire for meetings, seminars, conferences, special occasions

See our website for further information
www.crostonoldschool.org

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601272

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Lancashire Constabulary

Bike thefts are a common occurrence at the moment, and they need to be kept secure in a garage or shed. Make a note of the frame number (found underneath on the frame) and keep this safe. I still have some free Smartwater marking kits for cycles so if people wish to contact me, they can.

Other than that, our villages have been quiet, although lead and metal thefts are still on the rise. Can everyone be vigilant around any building that has any lead flashings?



PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

Croston Scout Band

A Big Scout Bravo! goes out to everyone who supported the Band's collection for Corey on Coffee Day. It was the best ever - just under £700!

This included a donation from the Band which the Church gives them for playing - Thank You.

Croston Beaver Scouts

Croston's Beavers are celebrating 25years of Beavering away and would like to invite anyone who has been a Beaver Scout or Beaver Scout Leader since 1986 to come and join us in Bishop Chester's Wood (if really wet in the community centre) on Sunday 2nd October from about 11.00am. We will be attending Church Parade at 9.00am and you are more than welcome to join us for that.

It will be great to 'catch' up with our 'older' Beavers and we plan to have lots of fun. Can you please bring along a picnic lunch - we'll provide the birthday cake! Any queries please ring Susan on 601321.

Calling all our tots, babies, mums/dads/carers

We would love to see you on Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 9-30-11-30am, in your Community Centre, Castle Walks. We've lots of space to play in, soft play area for babies and time to chat & have a brew.

The cost is £2-00 per family this covers rent/drinks/snacks/ activity. We also have a story sack loan system were you can borrow a story book with puppet to help tell the story.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (Coppull)
01257 246103

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

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 988 1188

FREE COMPUTER COURSES

FREE courses, run by Lancashire College, are available at the Community Centre.

These are held during the day. Courses include Beginners, Beginners+, Internet and Email and Desk Top Publishing (making cards/posters etc).

Others are available - want help with photos? Let us know what you want and we will try to arrange it.

Contact the VIP office on 603591

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Croston Christmas Fair Fund Raiser

Sunday 8th October 2011
7:30 pm

Croston Sports & Social Club
The Duke: An Elvis Tribute Act
An evening of entertainment to
include The Duke, Disco, Quiz
and hotpot supper

Tickets £10.00

Book tickets by email at
enquiries@crostonfestivities.co.uk
or by telephone on 01772 601804