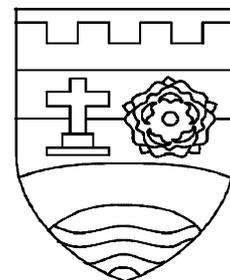


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



September 2010

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tel

Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	600482
John Forrest	601216
Chris Gibbons	601962
Stefan Mosalski	601300
Beryl Thompson	600900
Vacancy	

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 take place on the third Tuesday 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 - come along and have your say!

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities. The noticeboards are located on the Village Green, outside the Co-op and in front of the Police Station.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to include A4 sized posters to publicise forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk.

If you contact any the advertisers in the newsletter please tell them where you saw their advert.

Community Flood Plan

Just in case we one, the flooding on the evening of Tuesday 20 July arrived right on cue to remind us of the problems we will experience with the weather in the future and, to try to take some action against this, the Parish Council is working alongside our partners at Chorley Council, the Environment Agency and the Emergency Services to develop a Flood Plan for the village.

Laura Travers (Environment Agency), Simon Clark (Chorley Council) and Members of the Parish Council hosted a public meeting on 7 July 2010 and a follow up meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 6 October 2010 (see the colour insert in this newsletter). Please remember - 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.

Competition Entries

The Village has been entered in this year's North West in Bloom and Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competitions and we are waiting for the results to be announced.

Judging for this year's North West in Bloom Competition took place on Thursday 29 July 2010. Last year the village did extremely well and was placed joint second in last year's competition, and awarded the Tidy Britain Clean Sweep Award for the cleanest area in the competition. Church Street, The Orchard and Trinity and St Michaels Primary School also received awards.

Thanks go to all residents who assisted with this years entry by helping to generally keep the village clean and tidy and providing hanging baskets and other floral displays. Our usual annual clean up evening proved very difficult to arrange due to the persistent rain but a band of Parish Councillors and one resident just managed to get out the night before the judges visit.

Our thanks also go to Jamie Carson, Steve Hart and the Team at Chorley Council for collecting the waste bags from our clean ups of the Village Green and The Play Area on the morning of the judging.

Malicious Letters

We have been advised that malicious letters have been sent out in the name of the Parish Council and/or individual Councillors. Residents are advised **ALL** written correspondence from the Parish Council is on official letterhead and signed by the Clerk.

Anyone who receives correspondence of this nature is asked to pass it on to Members of the Council or the local Police.

Croston Acorns Nursery Ltd

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Chairman's Message

As I write this message the rain is pouring down and it's blowing a gale - but at least the hosepipe ban has now been lifted!!

Despite the awful summer weather, I am pleased to report that the sun was shining down on Thursday 29 July as I took two judges from the North West in Bloom competition on a tour of the village accompanied by fellow Councillors Kath Almond and John Forrest. The judges were very impressed by all that they saw but seemed particularly delighted by the efforts of the 'Eco-Warriors' at Trinity and St Michael's School and the Ladies of the WI who have taken on the garden at the old Methodist school which forms the pedestrian access to the recreation ground. They were also very complimentary about the work of the Friends of Croston Station. As yet we do not know the outcome of their visit but I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped Kath and I during this particularly difficult summer.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their efforts to clear away some of the weeds on the children's play area. The Sub-Group which is looking at re-designing the recreation ground has had some setbacks as it seeks to acquire funding for the project, mainly due to the current economic situation; however we hope to be able to do some remedial work in the coming months starting with a new gate at the entrance. Could I remind all dog owning residents that the Recreation Ground is a children's play area NOT a dog's toilet! By all means use the field to exercise your dog but please clean up after it!

Anne Peet

Intergenerational Activities

A part of Chorley Council's Neighbourhood Action Plan, the Community Development Team, has been working with local volunteers and organisations in Ecclestone to develop events and activities involving younger and older residents, including community arts/activities for families.

Activities have included a Pancake Day Event, "Rock School", in partnership with The Arts Council, where Primary School children were encouraged to take to the stage, crown green bowling with expert advice for the children from Ecclestone Bowling Club, and a weekly Craft and Knitting Group.

This project was supported by funding from Chorley Council's Neighbourhood Scheme. However, what has really made it a success is the input from local people to attend meetings and develop ideas into activities.

The project was so successful the Community Development team is looking to develop a similar project in Croston.

If you like to be involved or find out more please contact Natalie Holt, Community Development Officer, at Chorley Council on 01257 515278 or by email to: natalie.holt@chorley.gov.uk

Working together in
our neighbourhood to make **Smile**

Croston Old School	
Forthcoming events	
Friday 17th September	Mooncoyn - Dance the night away and have fun with one of Lancashire's top ceilidh and concert bands (suitable for all ages over 8 years) £5.00 adults/£3.00 8-18 year olds
Friday 15th October	Clive Carroll - A stunning guitar virtuoso playing a joyful range of music inspired by traditional, classical and jazz styles £8.00
Friday 12th November	Ashley Hutchings & Ken Nicol - Two of the best known faces in Folk, Folk/Rock and Acoustic music. Ashley is a founder member of Fairport Convention and Ken is a member of Steeleye Span. £12.50
Friday 17th December	One Accord - This popular local quartet will get you in the mood for Christmas with songs, tunes and stories from living tradition mixed together with humour and seasonal treats. £7.50 adults/£3.00 children
Licensed Bar doors open 7.30pm start 8.00pm	
Tickets available from 'Favourites', Town Road, Croston or reserve by telephone on 01772 600142	
Church Street, Croston, Leyland PR26 9HA More details at www.croston-old-school.org	

Croston's Community Flood Plan

Croston Community Flood Action Group, made up of local residents, met for the first time in June. The aim of the Group is to ensure our community is prepared for flooding. The recent flooding we experienced, following heavy rainfall, highlights the importance of this work.

In total, there are approximately 700 properties at risk of flooding from the river in Croston. There are also many properties at risk from surface water flooding where, in the event of heavy rainfall, the amount of rain water is too much for the drains to take away.



River Yarrow and Shevington Causeway on 20 July 2010

At the first meeting, the Flood Group heard from the different organisations involved in responding to floods, who each explained what their role is during flooding. The Group then went on to discuss what they thought should be in the Community Flood Plan.

Their ideas and suggestions have now been turned into the first draft of the Plan. This will be discussed and developed further at the next meeting, which has been arranged for Wednesday 6 October, 2010, at 7.00pm. As before, it will be held at Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston, PR26 9HA.

The Parish Council would like to invite you to the meeting and become part of the Flood Group. You will be very welcome, even if you weren't able to attend the first meeting and will be able to contribute to the plan and find out your own property's risk of flooding from the river. You will also be able to let us know if you could give help to vulnerable residents during flooding.

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

Please can you let the Parish Council know if you will be going to the next Community Flood Plan Action Group meeting by phoning the Clerk, Alan Platt, on 01257 234003 or email:

crostonpc@btinternet.com

Facelift

St. Michael and All Angels Church Clock is having a facelift.

It was last painted in 1985, and no doubt cost a lot less than it does in 2010.

The church is now fundraising to pay for the work.



If anyone wishes to make donations please contact Arvon Gould on 01772 601113.

Raft Race 4 July 2010

Friends of the River Yarrow were lucky with their annual raft race - no foot and mouth disease or floods stopped the race this year. There were 9 entries in total and, in addition to the £50 first prize, there was a £50 prize for the 'Best Dressed Crew'.

The race is about a mile long, and takes roughly half an hour depending on how well made the raft is. The winner of the race this year was the Black Horse Team, and the winner of the best dressed crew were the Indians in Blue - And what a motley



crew they were!

Thanks to all the brave entrants, without whose hard work in constructing their rafts and designing their costumes, the event would not be such a popular event.

For details about Friends of the River Yarrow see

www.friendsoftheriveryarrow.co.uk

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



Remembrance Sunday 2011

The Remembrance Sunday Parade will take place on 14 November 2011. The Parade will leave the 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. After

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

The 14 May 2011 is the 90th Anniversary and the County Committee is arranging a Family Fun Day in Astley Park, Chorley on Sunday 15 May 2011, starting at 10.30 am.

Help Keep Chorley's Streets Clean

Streets throughout the Borough will be cleaner thanks to a radical overhaul of the way residential roads are swept. Chorley Council is investing an extra £60000 on street cleaning to provide extra manpower and improve the tidiness of roads swept by mini sweepers.



In response to calls from residents the way roads and pavements are swept is being improved. The mechanical sweepers can only clean where they can reach and are hindered by parked cars and struggle to cope with weeds.

Under the new system an extra person will walk ahead of the sweeper and drag out bits of litter from the path or by parked cars so the whole street gets cleaned properly. Improvements



have already been noticed in (l-r) Sean Blake, Andrew McCarrick, Borough Cllr Eric Bell (Executive Member (Places) and Ste Calderbank

and around the village where weeds have been dug out of gutters before they are swept.

The extra investment in street cleaning was promised in the budget by Chorley Council and three new members of staff have been recruited to improve the way the streets are cleaned.

Under the new system roads swept by the mini sweepers will be thoroughly cleaned at least once every ten weeks and residents and visitors are also urged to do their bit and take their rubbish home or put it in a bin.

If you spot a road that has a particular problem with litter you can report it to Chorley Council on 01257 515151.

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Town Twinning Association

The Twinning Association are on an visit to Azay le Rideau in the Loire Valley - some people meeting up with 'old 'friends some making new ones.

A more detailed account of the visit will be in the next newsletter.

Keep Your Right to Vote

Between now and October each household is being delivered with an electoral registration from Chorley Council.

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

Villages in Partnership

VIP Community Grants Programme 2010 is offering grants of up to £500 to local Community Groups and Organisations for good causes.

VIP will fund:

A community group based in areas of Chorley, South Ribble or West Lancashire covered by VIP
Equipment purchase or hire

Projects/activities promoting health and well being

Projects/activities aiming to improve the quality of life

Projects/activities that make a positive contribution to a local community

VIP will not fund:

Day to day running costs eg utility bills, council tax, insurance, salaries

Applications from schools

Projects/activities that have already taken place

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Villages in Partnership, The Stables, Croston Community Centre, Castle Walks, Croston, Leyland. PR26 9RH

Tel 01772 603591

email vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk

Closing date : Friday 15 October 2010



Mobile Library

Lancashire County Council has told us that, at present, the Mobile Library Service is being provided by a spare mobile, with stock that was taken from the Trailer. However, from October the vehicles used will be much more modern, with improved access that includes a passenger lift. Because these vans serve a wide variety of locations around the south of the County, users of the Trailer Library should see a greater turnover of stock.

In Croston, usage of the Library has declined noticeably, as has the number of items borrowed on visits. As children's use is minimal, the time of the Croston visit will alter to mornings in October to see if this attracts increased overall borrowing. The duration of the stop will remain the same at 2.75 hours for the moment.

It is extremely important that customers continue to use the replacement mobile library. Let's not offer reasons for any further reductions in this valuable service.

For additional Library services, or between mobile visits, Eccleston Library can be found in the Carrington Centre, The Green, Eccleston. If you are already a mobile library user just bring your Lancashire Libraries card with you otherwise, it's easy to join - just come along and a card can be issued for you to take books out straight away. Phone 01257 451825 for information.

Opening hours are:

Monday	10.00-12.30 1.30-7.00
Wednesday	10.00-12.30 1.30-5.00
Friday	10.00-12.30

Advertisers

If you would like to reach around 1250 households in the village via the newsletter contact the Clerk (details on p1). A half column ad costs £30 (£45 colour) and a quarter column £15 (£22.50 colour).

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

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

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www.crostonoldschool.org

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Croston Parish Council does not accept any responsibility for items contributed by third parties.

Local Businesses

Reach around 1300 homes within the village by advertising in this newsletter. For details of current prices etc contact the Clerk (details on page 1).

Lancashire Constabulary

I will be holding a clinic offering FREE Smartwater marking for 20 bicycles at Croston Police Station on Saturday 2 October 2010 between 10.00am and 12.00am.

Smartwater is a liquid DNA marking system that has an 85% deterrent rate and a 100% conviction rate. Bikes will be given stickers to advertise the fact they are Smartwatered. I have fitted Smartwater in 60 properties in Croston and I am now extending the scheme to cover bikes. This scheme would normally cost £10 per bike, but I will do it for free!!

I have also started an initiative called Farmwatch/Horsewatch which local farmers and horse owners are being encouraged to join. Members will be contacted by text message when there is any relevant crime/suspicious activity in the area. They are also entitled to receive a discount on Smartwater which can be used to protect farm machinery and tack.

If anyone is interested in either of the above, they can contact me on 07912051837 or email me at

1932@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Maria Fetherstone

Croston St Michaels Scouts

One Scout and Leader attended the Red Rose International Camp at Great Towers in the Lake District and had a brilliant time.

Our sections return to Scouts the beginning of September to full and fun packed programmes.

The Beaver section is going on a County sleep-over (not much sleep!) at Washington Hall Fire Training Station and some of the Cubs are going to Great Towers for a water-based day.

If you need any information about Scouts, please contact Susan Twinn on 601321.

Tots Group

Tot's are back - we meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30-11.00am (starting Tuesday 7 September 2010).

New Tot's, Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents always welcome to come along have a play and a chat.



If you contact any of the advertisers please tell them where you saw their advert.

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

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