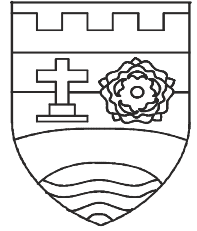


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2014

Croston's Gold



Councillors Mark Cowley, and Anne Peet with the Gold Award and MVS Trophy

After many years of achieving First or Second Runner-up, or latterly Silver Gilt or Silver, the village has finally reached the top in the North West in Bloom Competition! (see centre pages for details).

**Croston Parish Council would like to wish everyone
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Chairman's Message

The busy Christmas period is now upon but I just wanted to take a few moments to reflect on recent months and say a few thank you's!

First of all I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and support throughout this year with a special note of thanks to our Parish Clerk Alan Platt.

Secondly I would like to thank every-one who contributed to our entry in this year's highly successful North West in Bloom Competition (see centre pages). I am now looking forward to 2015 when we will be representing the North West in the Britain in Bloom Competition.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended the recent Remembrance Sunday service which saw the largest gathering I have seen in recent years. It was wonderful to see so many of our young people taking an active part in this important day.

Once again the small number of volunteers of the Croston Village Festivities Group have come together to organise what has become our Annual Christmas Fair. This wonderful day is greatly enjoyed by residents and visitors and the Parish Council is pleased to have been able make a donation of £500 towards the cost of the event this year.

We hope you enjoy the new Christmas Lights display which was made possible by a very generous donation from Andy Chell of Jepsons Flooring in Darwen for which we are very grateful.

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

Anne Peet

Christmas Lights

We hope you like the new look to the Village Green this Christmas, with the new lights in the trees to the rear of the Green.

The lights came courtesy of local resident, Andy Chell, whose company Jepsons Flooring Specialists of Hulme Court, Commercial Rd, Darwen BB3 0FE (Tel: 01254 705007), very kindly made a donation to cover the cost of the lights which allowed us to carry out a full replacement of the blue LED lights. We are hugely grateful to Andy for his donation.

We'd also like to thank another local resident, Doug Robinson, of Black Box Security, who provided use of a cherry picker so we could get the lights to the top of the Tree.

Good News for Croston

At a meeting on 23rd September, Borough Councillors ended weeks of uncertainty in the village and approved the funding, by Chorley Council, of the full £1.1m shortfall to enable the project to go forward without the imposition of a levy on Croston residents.

As the village is where the problems manifest themselves, as opposed to being the cause of the flooding problems, the Parish Council has never been in any doubt that the funding should be provided by other authorities without a levy solely on the council taxpayers of Croston.

During discussions of the proposal for the levy some residents expressed the view that they would personally be prepared to contribute to the project even though their properties were not at risk and the Parish Council is liaising with Officers at Chorley Council to try to assess the feasibility of some form of voluntary appeal, which would give residents and businesses who wished to contribute the opportunity to do so, purely on a voluntary basis. Further details will be provided as and when we have them.

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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 Bellringers, 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.

On Remembrance Day a half muffled quarter peal taking 47 minutes was rung to mark the Centenary of the outbreak of WW1.

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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Ellen Peet



Tel: 07704 884700



email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk



Planning for the
future of water



Floodready

A new website www.floodready.co.uk has been developed to help communities, including families and schools, to understand the causes and impacts of flooding and what they can do before, during and after a flood to 'Be Flood Ready'.

Funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Floodready is a resource designed to raise awareness of flooding across the North West.

The site is a great example of partnership working and could be a useful tool to help communities become more flood aware.

Please take time to have a look at the site and pass on the details to anyone that you think would find it useful.

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Introducing Red Admiral Music Academy

Established in June of this year, we are a new not for profit community group based in Mawdesley, specialising in teaching children and adults how to play brass instruments in a fun and encouraging environment.



Meeting on Friday evenings at SS Peter & Pauls Church Parish Centre on Ridley Lane in Mawdesley we currently have two programmes running and are looking for new players to come and join us.

6:00 - 6:30pm Learner Band - for complete beginners and those learning new brass instruments wishing to gain a little more confidence.

6:45 - 8:00pm Training Band - for players who wish to develop their playing skills and musicianship through enhanced ensemble opportunities.

We have set Red Admiral Music Academy up predominantly to offer opportunities for the youth in the area, to take up, or progress with, brass instrument playing. However there is no upper age limit and we have a number of adults ranging from complete beginners to very experienced musicians in the Academy. Our Musical Director is Danny Brooks (MMus), who has a passion for teaching music and many years playing, teaching and conducting experience. It is amazing how quickly people of any ability progress under his leadership. Danny is supported by a number of other excellent musicians providing coaching and tuition..

If you are interested in joining please contact Mark Cobham on 07554 609024 or Emma Barton on 07790 301741

Membership of Red Admiral Music Academy costs just £2 a week. Instrument hire is available for a very small monthly payment.

If playing isn't for you, but you enjoy listening to brass music, come along to one of our concerts. We will have various events throughout the year and we will be playing at the Christmas Farmers Market at Cedar Farm, but our main event will be our Christmas Concert at Mawdesley Village Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 14th December. Keep an eye out on the notice boards in the area or on our website www.red-admiral-music-academy.co.uk for more information.

North West in Bloom

Croston has been entering this prestigious competition for many years and this year we not only received a Gold Medal, we came first in our category - Large Village and collected the MVS Trophy for doing so.

In what was a very eventful afternoon at the Awards Ceremony, The Black Horse was also awarded a Gold Medal and Croston was nominated to represent the North West in next year's Britain in Bloom competition! More of that later.



The Black Horse in all its glory



The Friends of Croston Station

The previous evening had seen the village pick up four awards in the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' categories with Croston Station, Church Street and

14 - 20 The Orchard all being awarded Level 4 (out of 5) and Dalton Fold being awarded Level 3.



Cllr Steve Parkinson hard at work



Success!



We have now received the Judge's report of their visit on 2 July which details how points were awarded and highlights areas where they were particularly impressed.



It is very pleasing to note we were awarded 10/10 for being litter free and thanks must go to those who helped at our clean-up sessions and to our Lengthsman Kevin Greenhalgh, who works quietly and diligently in all weathers picking up discarded rubbish.

The Croft Field was described as “ a valuable asset to the village” and we were awarded 9/10 for conservation and biodiversity. The Church grounds were also highlighted as a good example of the use of perennial plants.

The display on the river walls, which was much admired this summer by residents and visitors alike, was awarded 18/20 points and the recent Tree Spree was described as an “innovative initiative”

We hope that the awards and trophy will soon be on public display.



Britain in Bloom 2015

Whilst we are very proud of the nomination for next year's Britain in Bloom, we also know we will have to raise our standards and that this will mean a lot more work for our volunteers. We will also need the support of all our businesses, pubs, schools, churches, volunteer groups etc.



With this in mind, a public meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.30pm to discuss and plan how we can further improve our village.

We hope you can come along!

Lord Nelson Firewalk

On Sunday 16th November twelve brave locals walked over burning hot coals to raise money for the charity "little heroes" (helping kids with cancer).

Local business also donated raffle prizes. We had a combined total with raffle and firewalkers of just under £3500. Then someone donated £39.19 so we can now say we raised Over that!! Our final total was £3501.00.

Cannot thank everyone enough for their efforts. The support has been fantastic.

Stella Morrison
Manageress - Lord Nelson



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Croston St Michael's Scouts

From all our leaders and scouts - Happy Christmas!

2015 sees your Scout group celebrating 50 yrs of Scouting in Croston - so be on the lookout for our celebration events!

Our 3 sections are thriving (with a healthy waiting list as well) due to our great leaders putting on fantastic programmes within their sections.

On our Christmas 'wish' list -- more uniformed leaders-we can never have enough! We are also looking for a new Group Scout Leader ,you need not be in scouts to do this. For more information please have a look at the role of GSL on www.scoutbase.org.uk or get in touch with Susan on 601321.

Croston Community Centre

The Community Centre, on Castle Walks, has a 'pop' up café on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month between 9:00am - 11:00'ish.

Come along and try our freshly brewed coffee, tea, cakes etc.

Tots Group

TOTS on THURSDAY wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing 'old' and new friends in the New Year.

We meet on Thursday mornings in the Community Centre, Castle Walks, 9-30 - 11-30am. cost £2.00.

Maybe not today - Maybe not tomorrow
But some day you MAY NEED US!

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There has been a spate of high value burglaries recently in neighbouring villages. Please ensure all your windows and doors are locked and secured in the run up to Christmas. Don't leave

Christmas presents on show, as it's an invite to burglars. Shed security is also important, and there have been many shed break ins recently.

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

We have recently applied to Trading Standards to have the whole of the village designated a no cold calling zone. We have a large number of elderly and vulnerable residents, and, although we already have some no cold calling zones, cold callers are targeting other areas.

If the application is successful all residents will be consulted and it will need at least 50% of residents to be in favour for it to go ahead.

There are 'NO COLD CALLING' window stickers in the Co-op and Londis, for residents to take and place in doors and windows as a deterrent for now.

If anyone would like free Crime Prevention advice, just ring 101 and ask for a visit from your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone

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Contact Details

Councillors	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
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), commencing at 7:30pm, in The Old School, Church Street, Croston. Details of the meetings are placed in the notice boards prior to the meetings.

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: 0300 123 6780

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 former Police Station on Westhead Road 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.