



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 22 - April 2011)

The Parish Council is on-line www.Lesbury-pc.org.uk

Goodbye and hello. The Parish Council would like to thank Helen Smith for her services as a councillor. Helen has now moved out of the area to Shilbottle. However we are pleased to welcome Alma Duncan of Alnside Court as a co-opted councillor.

The Village Shop - The re-opening of the village shop and Post Office is getting closer. It will be run as a private enterprise by Carol and Roger Southam, Julie Dodson and Mick Williams, hopefully with community involvement - more on that in the attached flyer. Meanwhile a group of volunteers have already been helping to tidy both the exterior and interior of the shop ready for the opening.



Lesbury Village Hall - NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED.

The Village Hall Management Committee has members appointed by groups and clubs who use the Hall on a regular basis as well as 8 elected members. **NEW, ELECTED MEMBERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.** If you feel that you can offer both time and effort to support the continued running of this valuable, long-standing community asset, contact SUE HOWEY 830746 for more information, or come to the **AGM ON TUESDAY 17th May AT 7pm in the HALL.**

Alnmouth Station Car Park - The new Alnmouth station car park was officially open on the 28th February by Mr Kenny Middlemist, helped by his 2 grandchildren. Kenny was born in the old Station Cottages which were knocked down to make way for this development. The occasion was supported by representatives from NCC, Lesbury Parish Council, the construction company - Thorntons, Network Rail and by pupils from Hipsburn School. The opening was followed by a buffet lunch prepared by the cook at Hipsburn School.



Rail services update - From May 22, there will be a much improved train service at Alnmouth station. East Coast is improving frequency to provide a service roughly every 2 hours, in addition to the services provided by other operators. There will be a new service south, to Newcastle and London, at 0620 hrs: this will benefit early morning commuters. East Coast Rail have recognised the potential of our catchment area, especially with the new car park, for locals and tourists alike. There are also some great value advance purchase ticket deals which the station staff can help you find. The station is an important asset to our area, so should be supported wherever possible. Alnmouth Rail User Group (www.arug.org.uk) will continue to campaign for further improvements in service and station facilities. *(Murray Davies-Chairman Alnmouth Rail-users group)*



Speeding traffic through the Parish - The Village Plan highlighted the issue of speeding traffic in the Parish. The Parish Council has been informed by our Community Police Officer, PC Roxy Bird, that the local force now has an electronic speed indicator sign which will be used around the area to emphasise speed limits. Watch out for it!

Dog fouling - The Northumberland Gazette recently highlighted the issue of dog fouling in areas of Alnwick. Sad to say Lesbury Parish has its own problems. Dog owners are reminded to clear up any mess left by their pets and use one of the many dog bins around the area to dispose of the waste. In Northumberland it is an offence not to clean up after your dog has fouled. Offenders can be reported to NCC Dog Services (Tel: 0845 6006400 or e-mail at contactcentre@northumberland.gov.uk)



Visit to RAF Boulmer- Members of the Parish Council and guests recently visited RAF Boulmer which is situated in our Parish. The visitors were welcomed by Group Captain JB Portlock, he is commander for RAF Boulmer and a network of radar sites around the UK. We learnt that RAF Boulmer is home to the NATO Control and Reporting Centre, School of Aerospace Battle Management (SABM) and ASACS Force Command Headquarters and employs some 900+ service and civilian personnel. The Operations Unit carries out a radar watch of the UK skies on a 24/7 basis whilst the SABM provides world wide training in the use of the complex radars and the development of battle strategies. One of the most familiar features of RAF Boulmer are the yellow helicopters of A' Flight 202 Squadron Search and Rescue helicopters which provide cover across our area. We would like to thank G C Portlock and his staff for a most entertaining and informative visit.

Pupil Report from Hipsburn School / Pond Field - Previously MB. (Year 3) reported that "a tree fell next to the swing in the Pond Field and a pipe is broken and where the tree fell there is a muddy patch." The PC is pleased to say that the broken pipes have been replaced by Martin Inkster and another pipe cleaned out so that the play area is draining properly and drying out.

Nature Notes - Forget the swallow and summer, and think of chiffchaff and spring. A diminutive leaf warbler, the first to arrive in mid-March from its wintering quarters in the Mediterranean, it can be seen flitting amongst the tree tops catching insects. Stand on Steppey Lane Bridge facing north, and listen for the "chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff" song which gives it its name. It may be in the trees or on a wire. Also keep an eye out for one in the garden, as a pair bred successfully in Meadowlands a couple of years ago in some low vegetation, and you never know, it may choose yours this year. (photo © Richard Dunn)



Lesbury and Alnmouth Cricket Club - 2011 Season - What better way to start the new season than with a home match, Saturday 23 April, against local rivals Warkworth Cricket Club. ALCC runs 4 senior teams plus junior teams at U11, U13 and U15. Junior coaching starts on Friday 29 April, 6.00 to 7.30pm with opportunities for individual coaching when required. Whether you want to play, watch or support social functions you will be made very welcome, so come along and enjoy the summer months at your local cricket club. (David Gleadall)

Revision of the Lesbury P C Community Groups, Activities, Sports & Events Booklet (2009.) If you would like your group to be included again, please check your previous entry and advise us of any amendments. If you are a new group send the name, meeting place, meeting times, contact name and telephone number/email address to Bob Dutton (01665 830801) or e mail fao Bob Dutton to clerk@lesbury-pc.org.uk

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Parish Council meetings are held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend. A full list of Parish Councillors can be found on www.lesbury-pc.org.uk