



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 28 - April 2012)

Don't forget the Village Hall Easter Bingo fundraiser, Friday,
March 30th in the Hall, eyes down at 7.30 pm.

This Newsletter focusses on some forthcoming events taking place in the Parish.

Northumbria in Bloom-A "Bloom" committee has been formed comprising Mary Hadley, Jenny Styring,



Jenny Kent, Ian August and Tom Wilson. In order to understand the judging process an on-site meeting was held with advisors from Northumbria in Bloom who gave very helpful indicators to what their judges will be looking for. First and foremost the Parish is NOT in competition with other parishes. We will be judged against a fixed set of criteria in the following areas, horticulture, environment, sustainability and community; the judging guidelines and other information can be found on www.northumbriainbloom.co.uk. Two

judges will make two visits, one in spring and a second in summer. The first visit will be on Wednesday. April 11th and will last for about an hour. Firstly the judges will travel around by car to get a general overview of the parish and then walk from Townfoot to Meadowlands. Afterwards they will visit the old road bridge

area, drive to the railway station and finally walk down to the Pond Field Playground. Different areas will be walked on the summer visit. We are fortunate to live in a very beautiful part of the world but if we work together as a community then it can be made even better.

Some initial tidying needs to be done e.g. clearing ivy at the entrance to Lealands and by the Memorial Garden down to the old bridge; in addition perhaps some planting will be carried out at the entrance to the Pond Field in cooperation with TFOTPF. We need to keep the village tidy so why not join the merry band of litter pickers



- we have gloves and nippers available. Don't act alone-how about forming a small, local working group? Do you have any ideas on areas for sustainable improvement? Let one of the committee or one of the Parish Councillors know if you have any ideas and if you can spare the time to help.



The Queen's Jubilee Event- the PC has arranged an event that will give everyone from our large parish the opportunity to be involved in the celebration. The event is an aerial group photograph of all residents of the parish or as many as possible who wish to be included. The photo-shoot will be Saturday May 26th between 11.00 and 11.30am on the Cricket Field. Photos will be taken by Steve Miller from the top of a specially hired cherry picker from Warren Access; there will be no cost to the parish,

costs will be met by the ISOS housing group. Why the 26th? We are trying to avoid clashes with street parties and other celebrations on the following Jubilee week-end. On the 26th the Friends of Hipsburn School are holding an event on the school field where it should be possible to buy refreshments.



The Olympic Torch Relay- the Olympic Torch will be carried through our Parish on Friday, 15th June 2012. It will leave Alnwick by convoy early in the morning and arrive at the Hipsburn sign on the A 1068 at 07.47 then it will be carried on foot by torchbearers to the Hipsburn roundabout from where it will leave by convoy for Warkworth. We hope as many residents as possible will line the route and give the torch a good send-off. During that period and for a time prior to the arrival of the

torch the A 1068 will be closed to ALL traffic. Watch out for the Olympic Torch signs in the weeks to come. On the night of the 14th June there will be celebrations held in Alnwick to mark the arrival of the Torch; details in the local press and on the NCC web site.

The Pond Field- It has been two years since the new play equipment was installed in the Pond Field following intensive fund-raising by the Friends of the Pond Field (TFOTPF). Two of the key members of the committee are now working full time and although they are prepared to stay on in an advisory capacity new committee members are needed as well as volunteers to assist them. Don't let this great community effort be wasted; the PC and Northumberland Estates have made their commitment to this group but new blood is wanted to keep it going. In recent weeks a small group of volunteers has been tidying up, planting bulbs and keeping an eye on the park. In the future, following a RoSPA safety inspection, the swings may have to be removed due to the condition of the frame; it is 25 years old and has been moved several times. The new equipment was funded with older children in mind but there may be some parents who would like to see equipment for younger children, especially if the swings go. There is a small amount of money left in the funds but fundraising, including looking for grant funding, will be needed for new equipment. The AGM will be held towards the end of April; please look out for posters on the Parish notice boards and in Lesbury shop.



Speeding- In December we mentioned that Community Speedwatch police officers sent 41 drivers warning letters after speeding through Hipsburn. (twice as many as any other village covered by the Speedwatch programme.) In order to obtain statistical data on speeding the PC asked NCC to install "speed strips" on our busy roads; these have been installed on Lesbury Road, Longhoughton Road and in front of the school.

Dog Fouling- yet again! It seems the good weather has brought dog walkers out and with it an increase in dog fouling. Walk your dogs by all means but take their mess away. Plenty of dog waste bins can be found around the parish; do not stuff dog waste bags into hedgerows, grit bins or peoples gardens! This offensive behaviour is punishable by a hefty fine and the PC and volunteers are watching for offenders. Offenders can be reported to NCC on 0845 6006400; e-mail at contactcentre@northumberland.gov.uk



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Nature notes- Standing in the middle of the road at Bilton, last week, was a Long-eared Owl showing the erect tufts of feathers on the head which gives it its name. Smaller than Tawny, darker than Barn with longer wings it is occasionally seen hunting for voles at night. If you are lucky enough to see the bird perched it has orange eyes, as opposed to yellow of the diurnal Short-eared Owl. It can use old Magpie or Crow nests to lay eggs in

March/April, hatching a month later. Its song is a quiet low pitched hoot but the begging call of the young owlet is a high-pitched, drawn-out cry audible from over a kilometre away. So keep your eyes and ears open when coming home late from the Coach, perchance you should come upon this elusive creature of the night.

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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 at www.lesbury-pc.org.uk