



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

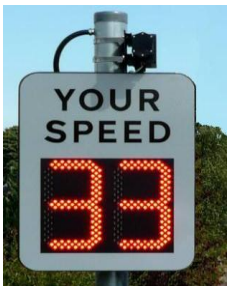
(Issue 32 - December 2012)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The PC thanks all VOLUNTEERS including the gardeners, litter pickers, newsletter deliverers and Dougie for cutting the grass in the Memorial Garden

Precept- Again there will be **no increase** this coming year (2012/2013). The PC have tried to spend your money wisely and costs have been kept down by various means especially by employing volunteers. Next year it is hoped to buy an information board for the Mill wall area to describe the history of Lesbury Old Bridge and Mill. (This was suggested by the "Northumbria in Bloom" judges.) In addition the PC needs to replace 2 noticeboards and place a 3rd, new board close to the railway station. Other expenses for general maintenance always occur such as repairs to bus shelters, gates and seats. Remember, we still have one of the lowest precepts in the County.

Parish Councillor vacancy- You could become a member of the PC helping in various ways to run local services. In particular you would be involved in deciding on the precept and how this is spent to benefit the community. You could help influence and shape the long term development policy for the parish and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications. Other aspects of the role include working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent and helping to improve the quality of life and the environment in your area through local projects. Still interested? Then please e mail or send a letter to Liz Taylor the Parish Clerk. (Address below)



Speeding- This is still seen by residents as a major problem throughout the Parish. In March NCC conducted a survey (at PC's request) which produced worrying results. Although many vehicles are keeping to the speed limit many are not. It was noted that hundreds of vehicles were recorded travelling in excess of 35mph on all our main roads, even from Duchess Bridge to Hipsburn past the school; some vehicles were recorded at speeds in excess of 65mph near the school. We have highlighted the Speedwatch initiative in previous Newsletters; even though the operators can be seen at the side of the roads they are still detecting speeding vehicles within the 30 mph zones. The PC is investigating the possibility of buying a flashing speed indicator sign to help improve driver awareness of local limits.



Dogs- Another constant irritation and source of complaint to the PC is dog mess. Who is the owner of the dog leaving a regular deposit and not picking up in front of the school? If you witness this or any other incident speak to the owner if possible or phone NCC on 0845 600 6400 and ask to talk to the Dog Warden.



Third hand complaints to parish councillors are no help at all. In an effort to combat the problem the PC has acquired a number of 'doggy bags' which are available free of charge from Lesbury Post Office.



Thank you NCC- the PC would like to thank NCC for 3 recent actions (1) Cleaning Lesbury bridge.-the bridge is no longer green but back to its original colour. (2) Following a report of an unsafe branch on the sycamore tree by the Church gate NCC quickly employed a tree surgeon to make it safe. A subsequent survey has shown that the tree is so diseased that it has had to be felled. Its situation by the road and adjacent to the a street light and graveyard has meant that NCC has had to pay

in excess of £3000 for felling and taking measures to ensure safety to people and property (3) In another incident, during heavy rain a blocked gully caused flooding at the corner near to church; on the day this was reported by Max Gerum at 12.30pm - the NCC gully cleaner arrived quickly to pump out drain and the job was completed by 1.30pm. The gully cleaner has since cleaned out most of the grids in the Parish. **Well done NCC.** However, the PC has objected to an NCC application to put 4 advertising signs on Hipsburn roundabout and 3 on the bridge roundabout on the grounds of too much street clutter; roundabouts are difficult enough for drivers without any extra distractions. Our input is one from many statutory bodies and the application may be approved by the Planning Committee especially as the advertising will generate cash.

Alnmouth Railway Station- Following a number of enquiries the PC asked National Rail if they could leave the station waiting room open longer as the platform is now monitored by CCTV. They have replied stating that it is policy to lock up unmanned waiting rooms despite CCTV coverage.



New Wall on the path between PO and Steppey Lane Bridge- This retaining wall was built by the owner of the cottage, without any cost to the Parish, to prevent his garden slipping on to the path. The new wall matches the surrounding walls or it will once new coping stones have been sourced! What an improvement. Many thanks to



Robert who organised the work, Ivan Laidlaw, a local lad, who built the wall and of course to Kevin who paid for it.



Nature note- Cache and Carry! Have you ever wondered why a huge sunflower should be growing in the middle of a carefully planted summer pot? Well this is the time of year to solve that mystery. Place a bird feeder filled with black sunflower seeds in a position where you can see both it and some plant pots and watch for the antics of the Coal Tit: this, the smallest tit, with a black head, white cheeks and a white patch on the back of its neck, will be seen to carry off its precious jewel and burying it for a 'rainy' day. Whether it remembers where it's put it is open to question, but the result of any forgetfulness certainly provides a colourful reminder of this most entertaining winter gardener.

Music Hall- On Friday 3rd November, at Lesbury Village Hall, a sell-out audience was treated to a varied programme of entertainment including magic, clog dancing, communal singing, world champion spoons-playing and humour. The appreciative audience responded enthusiastically to a troupe of talented young dancers based in Alnmouth who presented a carefully choreographed interpretation of the "Moonlight Sonata". There was also a scurrilous, satirical sketch featuring puppets based in part on the "Captain Pugwash" TV programme. The show fulfilled its three aims namely to provide



an enjoyable experience for the audience, to publicise future events and to raise money towards to the Hall Restoration Fund (£502). Thanks are due to Colin Platt who acted as photographer for the night and to members of the Hall Committee who helped with the organisation of the event. The next event in aid of the Restoration Fund is on the 8th February 2013 when the Duchess Community High School Music Department will be putting on a full concert including a Big Band, Choir and solo artists. Tickets are £8.00, payable on the night, but you need to reserve a ticket beforehand by phoning 01665-833144 (evenings) or signing up in the Post Office. *Mary Hollins*

Parish Clerk

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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