



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 27 - February 2012)



Breakages/vandalism-We have mentioned in previous Newsletters that the Parish Council will be taking responsibility for some services previously undertaken by NCC. A good example of what can be incurred is the recent damage to the two bus shelters near the Alnwick Road roundabout. During Christmas/New Year a polycarbonate panel was broken in each. The total cost for their repair will be approximately £203 + VAT which will come out of the PC budget; in other words the **precept that you are paying**.

Village Hall - 2011 was a busy year for Lesbury Village Hall with some much needed repair work carried out and several new volunteers joining the Management Committee. The Christmas Bingo marked the end of the regular Wednesday night meetings and the Committee would like to thank all those who have supported it over the years. The Committee are hoping to run one or two special Bingo evenings throughout the coming year so watch out for the posters. 2012 will be another busy year as the Hall celebrates its 40th anniversary. A special event is being planned for the summer to coincide with the Olympic torch being in the area. Full details will be advertised nearer the time. The Committee is also hoping start the ball rolling to refurbish the Hall and bring it fully up to date but this will be a long process and will require some significant fund raising. The Hall is there to service the local community and we hope that you will continue to support this worthwhile facility. (See overleaf)



Post Office- A lot has happened in the last year and we hope that you will take some time to read their flyer sent with this Newsletter. We still have a shop BUT it is up to you in the Community to use it and not be complacent. Services such as these are not a great earner so every penny you spend in the shop means greater security for its future.

Britain in Bloom- as we mentioned in the last edition we have registered for Britain in Bloom. Since then a small committee of 4 residents and a Parish Councillor have come forward to guide us through the event. What is involved? There will be 2 visits by judges (one in April and another in July.) who will assess the parish on its achievements in three core areas: Horticultural Excellence; Environmental Responsibility; and Community Participation. We are developing a portfolio of evidence to support our progress in these areas with data collected in the Newsletters and from the Hipsburn School gardeners (Ronnie Wintrip and the children.)



Litter-pick- Not entirely unrelated to the previous item is the need to keep the Parish clean and tidy. In the past annual pick-ups have been organised by groups such as the WI but the PC would like to adopt a new approach and litter pick as needed. One way we can do this is to have litter picking groups. The PC has



obtained from NCC sets of gloves and fluorescent jackets; to complete the kit the PC will buy 10 sets of grabbers. Ideally the PC would like to offer the kit to volunteers groups to look after "their own" neighbourhood. Already volunteers have come forwards to tidy the cricket and football pitch areas around Hipsburn School, the cycle way to the Duchess' Bridge, Hipsburn Steading, Pond Field and Steppey Lane. The photo shows the result of a recent litter pick on the cycleway following a 10 minute session. If you can spare the occasional 15 minutes please contact Tom Wilson for the cleaning kit-don't just "walk on by."



Renovation- Hopefully you will have noticed that the area of land at the junction of Curly Lane and Lesbury Road has been cleared and a new fence built to replace the old one. The Parish Council would like to thank Northumberland Estates for quickly tidying the area following our request.

Reporting faults / complaints to NCC- If you notice problems with street lights, road maintenance or other NCC related issues then please inform the County Council as follows:-

1. Make a note of the problem, exact location, together with any useful reference numbers e.g. on street lights or grit bins.
2. Call NCC on 0845 600 6400 or send an e-mail to ask@northumberland.gov.uk or use the links on their web site.
3. Make the report and give them your name, address and postcode. You will be given a job number when your report is logged in. If you need to follow up with NCC you can use this number as reference



Christmas lights- Christmas lights were installed by volunteers on trees around the Memorial Garden and on South View. Our special thanks go out to Hugh Tulip for providing the Christmas Tree in South View and to Billy McKnight for installing and maintaining the lights in South View.

The Queen's Jubilee- The PC is proposing to carry out a whole-Parish event based on Hipsburn School, the Cricket and Football Club areas. At the moment the idea is to have a picnic followed by a community photo; it is hoped that as many residents as possible will come along. The PC is aware that there are a number of street parties planned to mark the occasion so the event will not be at the Jubilee weekend. More information on organising you own party can be found at <http://www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/jubilee-2012.php>



Neighbourhood Watch- Residents in Northumberland now have a new way to get in touch with police about local issues. 'Talk Forums' are online conversations between people and neighbourhood inspectors and sergeants. Residents are invited to pose questions about local policing issues via the police website and receive a reply online. It's easy to take part, just visit: <http://www.northumbria.police.uk/talk> browse the discussions and topics for the area you wish to 'TALK' about.

Village Hall - regular and new events.

Cricket Club Jumble Sale- This will take place on 15th February. If you have any jumble contact Richard Lillico (830471) or Bill Howey (830746) to arrange collection.

Pilates- Two 8 week courses will start in Lesbury Village Hall on 22 February. Class One: 5.30-6.15pm Beginners Pilates and Stretch and Class Two: 6.30-7.30pm Circuits and Pilates. Call Alix on 07940009150 or alixwestgarthtaylor@hotmail.com for any enquiries or to book your place.

Find Your Voice- Discover the joys of singing, with Flora Peden Smith, Wednesday evenings: Feb 22, 29; March 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 7.45 - 9.30pm. Sessions will be very informal and great fun. For more information or a booking form please email info@20000voices.org or phone 01670 852445

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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