



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 48 - January 2016)

The Parish web site is www.lesbury-pc.org.uk

Alnmouth Railway Station Car Park- Many of you will be aware that work has now started to expand the northbound car park to provide 37 extra spaces and a total of 102 parking spaces on that side of the station. This expansion will also take into consideration the aspirations of the Aln valley Railway to come into Alnmouth Station sometime in the future. The work is being carried out by Northumberland County Council under the direction of their Construction Manager, John Hunter. The PC has also been pressing to make some or all of the bays, on the northbound carpark, time limited to reduce the abuse of extended overnight parking (sometimes running into weeks). Our thanks go to our County Councillors, Heather Cairns and Gordon Castle for vigorously supporting this project.



Introduction of 20 MPH Limits Adjacent to Schools - Hipsburn First School

As part of an on-going safety initiative by Northumberland County Council, it is proposed to introduce 20 mph zones adjacent to all schools within Northumberland over the next 5 years. With pressure from parents, the PC and our county Councillors on NCC, Hipsburn School has been included in this year's programme and it is hoped that the scheme will be introduced by April 2016. The 20 mph zone will run from the Hipsburn roundabout, along the B1338 to the Duchess

Bridge and also into Steppay Lane. The area will be highlighted by the relevant signage and also changes to the road surface. County has also introduced a parking enforcement vehicle to support speed and parking restrictions around schools which will visit from time to time.

Speed awareness monitors - As part of the Bilton "yellow line project," associated with the Station car parking issue, two speed monitoring signs will be installed shortly. One will be placed at Bilton Hill just inside the new, extended 30 mph zone and the second in South View, near the bus stop, 80 metres up from the Hipsburn roundabout. This second unit will be able to be turned, from time to time, so that it can detect traffic going up South View to Bilton or down South View to the roundabout. Each sign will register vehicle speed and display a message saying "slow down" or "thank you" as appropriate, similar to the one in the photograph.



Parish "clean-up"- At the end of December and in early January NCC carried out an in-depth clean-up of the Parish. Road and path edges were cut back, paths swept to remove a lot of autumn debris and drains cleared. Everywhere looks much better which will give us a good start to our Northumbria in Bloom campaign. As a reminder the NIB team is always looking for volunteers and anyone interested can contact the co-ordinator, Ian August, on 01665 833737. Our thanks also go to the NCC Neighbourhood Services team who carried out the work.

Precept- on the advice of our County Councillors the PC has proposed an increase in the precept this year therefore a Band D property precept will be £32.31 pa an increase of £6.46. All our income for the PC comes from the precept; this revised income will total £15000 per year in line with surrounding parishes (and lower than many!). It is feared that the Government will cap precepts soon, yet PC's are being asked to take more responsibility for their parishes especially for maintenance. Our accounts can be followed on the Parish website.



shutterstock - 271,493,180

14/03236/FUL - Development at Townfoot, Lesbury- full application for 10 affordable homes/outline planning for 10 self-build homes.- This application was presented by Northumberland Estates in October 2014 and has now been approved although with a number of conditions, especially, but not only, relating to providing adequate drainage of the site and protection of surrounding properties.

15/00446/FUL Construction of 1 four-bedroom dwelling and 1 three bedroom dwelling. - This is on the land bordering Brockgate Lodge, the Square and Lealands and has been approved by NCC.

Dementia Friendly Parish- update from Carol Southam

- "Cupcakes and Crackers" 5 December was a success.
- Two drop-in sessions at the Shepherd's Hut for 7 and 10 December had low take-up but were still regarded as important.
- The Coach kindly agreed to host an event on 29 January which local businesses could attend.
- The next event to be organised will be at a weekend at the request of residents of the village interested in the project. Details TBC.



The village is working towards being a Dementia Friendly Community and the next steps will be to apply for recognition from the Alzheimer's Society.

Thank you from SHAK- Spurred on by late Lesbury resident Alison Porteous, over the last two years I have held seven coffee mornings and fayres at the Village Hall to raise funds for SHAK local dog rescue. I wanted to say how grateful I am to those residents who have come out in all weathers to support us and to those who have been particularly generous. It has made a huge difference to the charity. In total an £3723.87 has been raised at these events. This is a huge thank you on behalf of all who work with the SHAK dogs. I do not plan to hold a Lesbury event for at least 18 months; however the charity continues to need all the support it can get. So if you would like to help the current 65 SHAK dogs, you can do so by visiting the SHAK stall at Alnwick Market on the last Saturday of each month or contacting me on 0795 1397560. As well as collecting your penny jars and any donation you may wish to make, we also take quality items that we can sell on the internet to raise funds. *Jill Amery, SHAK Volunteer.*

Carers Northumberland- Are you an unpaid carer? Do you spend time looking after someone who depends on you because of illness (physical or mental), disability, frailty or substance misuse? Registering gives you access to our Carers Emergency Card Scheme which can give you peace of mind that the person you are caring for will not be left alone if you find yourself unable to be with them. If you would like to register or would just like to know more please ring our Information Line: 01670 320025 or have a look at our website www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk. We are also more than happy to come and talk to local groups about our work and what we can offer.

Citizens Advice Volunteers- Volunteering for Citizens Advice has been described as 'the most rewarding experience of my life' by one of our current volunteers. Citizens Advice is a registered charity and we rely on volunteers to provide the invaluable service which helps so many people within your local community. Whatever your reason for volunteering this is your chance to make a real difference to the lives of other people. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Garrett on 01665 604136 or at trainingalnwick@northumbriancab.cabnet.org.uk.



Nature Notes-Muriel Cadwallender- At the far-east outpost of the Parish lie 'Marden Rocks', a small outcrop within Alnmouth Bay. In mid-January this was one of the selected sites for the third Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey, organised through the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). As in previous surveys, all waders and seabirds were counted at low tide, together with details of habitat used and feeding strategies. On a clear, cold, winter's day, camouflaged amongst the seaweed was a 450 strong flock of Golden Plover contrasting with the vibrant leg colour of a few Redshank feeding on hidden morsels. Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Turnstone, and Curlew, were also recorded and apart from Golden Plover are listed as a cause for concern by UK Conservation Status with 'Amber' alerts or, in the case of the iconic Curlew, 'Red'. Let's hope that in another ten years time we can still enjoy the spectacle these welcome waders create. *(Photo: Tom Cadwallender)*



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Parish Council Chairman: Bob Dutton; Tel. 01665 830801

Parish Councillors; Gareth Breese - 830195, John Gebbie - 830642, Douglas Hunter 07903 243362,

Dave Knowles - 830467, Roger Styring 830531, Adrian Vass - 830134, Peter Cossins - 830597, Kevin Franklin - 830122.

Parish Council meetings are usually held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend.