



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

(Issue 45 - July 2015)

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

Lesbury Parish Council - Summary of the Chairman's Annual Report for the year ending May 2015.

The lack of volunteers and the problem of having so few Councillors has been highlighted a number of times this year. At one meeting, due to illness and a late running train, we did not have sufficient numbers to make a quorum; this was especially problematic as we had a difficult planning application to discuss. **Our major priority in the coming year is to co-opt more councillors in order for the PC to remain viable.** Training on the responsibilities of a Parish Councillor is available and we would be pleased to hear from residents who would like to join us.

Finances - The Council has remained in budget this year despite having greater outlay for Parish maintenance. As a reminder all our finances and governance rules will be available via the web site by 1st July 2015 or sooner for anyone to look at.

Planning - As with many Northumberland parishes, Lesbury has seen an increase in the number of major planning applications (rather than alterations to properties) and the PC has concerns with this increase and has actively made these known to the planners.

Train Station Parking - Despite a number of meetings and granting of the planning application sadly there has been no further progress on the scheme due to Network Rail's failure to complete the lease. It is still a source of anger and concern to many residents.

Northumbria in Bloom - The Parish improved on previous results receiving a Silver Gilt Award in 2014. Foxton Golf Club, Alnmouth Station and The Coach Inn all received Gold Awards. This is no mean achievement and thanks must go to Ian August and his band of volunteers who tirelessly work around various parts of the village. Following the advice of the judges the PC will support Ian and try to get village activity groups and Hipsburn School involved in some specific projects to raise the quality of the Parish surroundings.

The Pond Field - The PC has also taken over the running of the Pond field from the original committee. In the future this will incur costs to our budget as we have to maintain it to a national safety standard.

Speedwatch - At last we have a speed gun! Thanks go to Heather Cairns in paying for it out of her budget and to Dave Knowles for his persistence in liaising with the police and organising the training of volunteers. As we observed at the initial session in Hipsburn we have a real need for more volunteers from within the Parish. A letter was sent to the quarries and major hauliers who use the B1339/A1068 through the Parish informing them about Speedwatch and asking them, particularly following the tragedy in Bath, to ask the truck drivers to keep within the speed limit particularly when coming down the hill from Longhoughton.

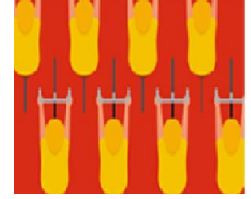
Dog mess - This is again at the top of our complaints list. We are in touch with the dog warden who has made a number of trips to the Parish. Residents can also inform any councillor of persistent offenders. The area is being spoilt by the few, the majority of dog owners are very diligent and our thanks go to them.

Seat outside the Glebe - Unfortunately the seat outside the Glebe was damaged beyond repair probably by a vehicle. The PC will fund a replacement which has been ordered from Northumberland Estates sawmill and it will be fitted as soon as it is available.



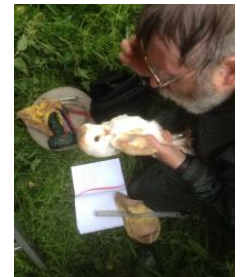
Dementia Awareness - Dementia is an increasing issue especially as survival rates for older people increase. The PC would like to foster a better understanding of dementia within our community and to increase our awareness of how it is manifest. With this in mind some members of the PC have had a short training session, provided by Carol Southam, our local Dementia Friends contact. The PC will develop an Action Plan to increase dementia awareness particularly through various groups and businesses in our Parish. One personal goal could be "to be more patient when out in our community."

Tour of Britain Cycle Race - On 9th September the race will come into Northumberland from the north and make its way south before finishing that day's stage in Blyth. Part of the route will pass through our Parish along the A1068 and it would be great to have a good turnout to see and cheer the cyclists on their way. If any residents plan to have some form of decorations (e.g. bunting, painted bikes to name but a few) or celebration let the PC know, we may be able to assist.



Northumbria in Bloom - The parish is looking good and Ian August and his team of volunteers are preparing for the next visit from the judges due to take place on the 21st July 2015. Residents can always help by tidying up around their properties and perhaps giving their piece of the footpath a sweep beforehand. Our first visit from the judges appeared to go well although they were a bit early in the season. There was plenty of yellow about with daffodils and forsythia, now there will be a different colour palette for them to see.

Barn owls - Earlier in the year we highlighted that one of the barn owl boxes had been tampered with. We are very pleased to say that the pair of owls in that box has managed to raise 3 healthy youngsters which are thought to be flying out and about already. They have each been ringed, measured and weighed by Phil Hanmer from the Natural History Society of Northumbria (Hancock Museum) assisted by local volunteers, Billy McKnight and Mick McMahon. Phil is responsible for monitoring over 100 boxes in Northumberland; part of a study going back many years.



Nature Note - Colour in a name is not always helpful. For instance there is a lovely Grey Wagtail feeding in the river under the Old Bridge wagging its very long tail. Its lemon - yellow under parts are very obvious, so why is it not called Yellow Wagtail? That's because there is another Yellow Wagtail. The 'Grey' has a grey back and lemon yellow under parts, whereas the smaller, shorter-tailed 'Yellow' has a warmer brown/grey back with, generally, more buttery yellow beneath. If you only get a glimpse of a bird its habitat is a good indication as to the identity. Grey Wagtails, spend most of their time near water, and are with us throughout the year, whereas the 'Yellows' spend time around fields and are summer visitors. Rocks and bridge crevices next to the fast flowing Aln make an ideal location for nesting and this year a pair bred near the viaduct; the watchful female is pictured here. (Muriel Cadwallander - photo Mick McMahon).

Jazz in the Village

"...he really used the vast range of the tenor, always with gentle lyricism"

"...really excellent Millar originals..."

"Beautiful soaring music! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

"What a lovely and exhilarating performance! Enjoyed the interaction between the two of you, and the obvious love you have for what you do."

"...expect warm, intelligent, reflective, human music..."

Ian Millar
saxophone
Dominic Spencer
piano

www.millarandspencer.co.uk

LESBURY VILLAGE HALL
ALNWICK, NE66 3PP
Sat 4th July 2015, 7.30pm
Tickets £10 available from Lesbury Post Office

BYOB (bring your own bottle)
OR see <http://lesburyvillagehall.co.uk/jazz-2015/> OR call 07713 988309

Village Hall - next event Jazz in the Village will be held on 4th July 2015 at 7.30 pm. See their website for details of future events on lesburyvillagehall.co.uk

Parish Clerk - Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, Rivendell, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU, Tel: 01665 830040, e mail lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com

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.

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