



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 25 - October 2011)

Obituary - Many of you will have heard of the sudden death of Mrs Glenys Graham. She had recently resigned from the Parish Council after 25 years of service and as Chairman for 13 years. The PC would like to pass on their condolences to her family.

Footpaths and rights of way - recent items in the press have highlighted some misconceptions amongst residents on responsibilities for the upkeep of paths and rights of way in the Parish. Generally Northumberland County Council has the responsibility for clearing and maintaining access on public rights of way. Examples of their work can be seen in the photos where the paths near to the wooden bridge over Longhoughton Burn and the track through dense gorse up to Foxton were both cleared, following a request from the Parish Council, on or round



June 20th this year. The path along the river to Alnmouth is also a right of way and is the responsibility of NCC (not Northumberland Estates) but it is worth remembering that they have the responsibility for 3000 miles of tracks so any issues need to be kept in perspective. The best way to keep these paths clear is to walk them regularly. For more details look at the NCC website under <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk> and use the search facility to search for "Rights of way." Northumberland Estates are our major landowner; they only have the responsibility for ensuring that a clear right of way is maintained through any of their crops, or across fields.

Parish walks - continuing the theme users of our web site will now find that two illustrated walking guides are available for download. Both walks start at the Post Office, one is a tour round Greenrigg and the second a circular walk via Foxton.



Devolution of responsibilities - As you are probably aware local councils are devolving certain responsibilities to parish councils. NCC is no exception. Lesbury PC has met with their representatives and believes that we are quite fortunate in having only a few things coming our way. The PC will be responsible

for the upkeep of bus shelters; any work can be done by NCC but they will charge. NCC will also cut the grass between April and September; any extra cuts can be requested by the PC for which we will be charged! Also NCC will no longer collect up grass cuttings but will blow them on to the grass. The PC is also responsible for seats around the Parish and fortunately over the last few years we have bought 14 no or low maintenance benches which will need little upkeep. The precept was recently revised and the PC believes that we are in a good position to meet any extra costs including those for the maintenance of the Pond Field.

Village Hall - Next year the Village Hall in Lesbury enjoys its 40th Anniversary as a Community Hall. A special celebration is being planned so look out for details early in the New Year. The Hall will shortly be undergoing some much needed internal repair work and this should be completed by the end of October. The next project will be to upgrade the internal decoration. The Hall is in high demand but there is still room for special interest groups, clubs and Private Functions. Contact Clive and Sue Gibson (VH Chairman-01665 833144) for more information or to book contact Murray Davies (01665 519437)



The Memorial Garden - Do you know where this is and what it represents? It is the walled garden on the right-hand side of the road as you enter Lesbury village from the roundabout with the Alnwick Road. The plaque tells you everything. It is the V E memorial Garden and was opened to mark the 50 years of peace following Victory in Europe day in 1945. (Youngsters look this up on the internet!). It is a very pleasant retreat; in particular the PC would like to thank Dougie Thwaites who cuts the grass and keeps the place in order.

Welcome pack - if you gain new neighbours please let Tom Wilson know (01665 830522) as he is able to provide them with the Parish Council's Welcome Pack which contains a copy of the Parish Plan, an introduction to the PC, the Newsletter and other items of local information to help them settle in. The packs are much appreciated by new residents and especially by our latest neighbour, Mrs Bloomfield.



Hipsburn School - No the Wild West hasn't arrived but a nice new log cabin has been erected in the school grounds. The school role has increased this year to 80 pupils with a further increase expected in January to 84. In the 2012 school year it is believed that over 90 will attend the school and room in the existing building will be tight; the log cabin will provide

much-needed extra teaching space. The schoolchildren are having a sponsored walk on October 5th to help provide money for the finishing touches to the cabin; other events may take place at a later date.



Railway station questionnaire - the Parish Council have been asked by NCC to bring to the attention of residents a questionnaire concerning the recent developments at Alnmouth Rail Station. It is a necessary part of an audit for the Leader Grant which helped pay for the new car park. Copies are available from the Village Hall, the Post Office or any Parish Councillor and can be returned to NCC by Freepost.

Examination results - A level and GCSE - the PC would like to offer congratulations to the many youngsters who were successful in their exams. In particular we would like to congratulate Sophie Gibson who formatted versions 11 - 16 of the Newsletter. She was successful in gaining 3 A levels and is now spending a year in New Zealand.



Nature note - You may have noticed that robins have started singing again, though not with any autumnal romance in mind, the more melancholy song which is sung by both male and female belies the aggressive message, keep off! Along with their greyer continental cousins arriving from northern Europe, our resident robins are claiming territories in a hedgerow or garden near you with the choicest menus to keep them nourished throughout the winter months. Any lurking invertebrate watch out. Mealworms on a bird table, or even an outstretched hand, are firm favourites in gardens and wow betides any unsuspecting rival approaching the delicacies on another's patch. The pugnacious behaviour behind the Christmas card image of the nation's favourite bird may result in a fight to the death.

Stop press - Alnmouth Rail User Group have managed to get a further train service improvement from December- an extra service back from Newcastle in the evening.

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 on www.lesbury-pc.org.uk