



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 31 - October 2012)

Congratulations to David Hawkins on completing the Great North Run in aid of the charity MIND. David thanks all his sponsors and people who attended the MIND Coffee Morning. He managed to raise over £500 on the GNR and a total of £1700 for the charity.

**Proposed New Housing at Lesbury Riverside-** the Parish Council have been informed that this proposal has been withdrawn by the applicant.

**Northumbria in Bloom-** The area covered by this event extended from Whitby to the Scottish Border; this year was the first-ever entry for Lesbury. We did not compete against other villages but were judged against a list of criteria which included aspects of horticulture (40% of marks), environment (20%), community participation (20%) plus baseline marks awarded at the first visit (20%). The entire Parish was inspected; particularly pleasing was our mark of



83% for community participation. The judges noted *"The absence of litter and general maintenance indicated that this village environment was clearly valued and cared for."* They highlighted areas for improvement including upgrading and adding colour to the area around the Lealands entrance (already started), sharing the village heritage by erecting information boards for visitors, identify areas for specific sponsorship and getting more volunteers on board.

The final results were as follows:-

Lesbury Parish - Silver; Foxton GC - silver; Hawkhill Business Park - bronze;

Alnmouth Railway Station - silver gilt and the Coach Inn - gold. Well done the Coach!

Most of our gardening around the Parish was done by four people; more volunteers are needed so if you would like to get involved then contact Tom Wilson. (830522). The judge's report is available on the Parish web site [www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk).

**What's been going on?** - You must have noticed the heavy machinery and workmen in the field beside the High Path but did you know that they were



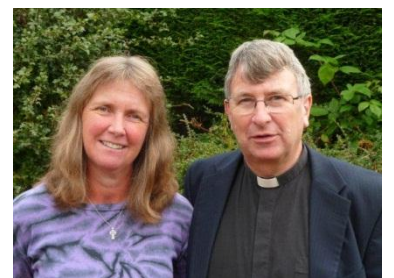
there to install a new fish pass at Lesbury dam? This was one of seven schemes to improve the passage of migratory salmon and sea trout and was sponsored and paid for by the Northumberland Rivers Trust



[www.northumberlandriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandriverstrust.co.uk). The old pass consisting of a series of steps was replaced by 5 metal "Larinier" sections each weighing 300 kgs and having a chevron design forming the "ladder." The sections made a total length

of 9.1 metres. At the same time a new eel pass was constructed on the north side of the river; this was made of plastic with a marine ply cover to stop hungry herons dipping in for lunch.

**Welcome to Ian, Claire and family** - Our new Vicar, Ian MacKarill and his wife Claire have recently arrived in Lesbury from the village of Fridaythorpe, just east of York. Already they are settling into the village, have met with many residents and are feeling at home.



**Reporting faults / complaints to NCC-** If you notice problems with street lights, road maintenance or other NCC related issues then please contact the County Council directly.

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](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk) or use the links on their web site.
3. Make your 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.



**Sponsored Water Walk-** A sponsored water-walk took place in the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, organised by Hipsburn First School, to help provide a water supply for the John Wesley Kosi Bay School, South Africa, The children walked from Hipsburn First School to the children's play area in Alnmouth and then to the edge of the River Aln to collect water in containers. The children then walked back to the school with their containers where the contents were measured by the helpers. At present the Kosi Bay School has to collect water daily from a borehole which can run dry by mid-day; further supplies have to be carried from the local river. The water-walk at Hipsburn was simulating those conditions to give the children an understanding of the difficulties met by their counterparts at Kosi Bay. More about the walk and the project can be found at [hipsburnsponsoredwalk.blogspot.co.uk](http://hipsburnsponsoredwalk.blogspot.co.uk)

**Speedwatch-** The men in fluorescent jackets have been in Lesbury on two occasions recently, in response to the Parish Council asking for information on speeding. They are equipped with speed guns and record the speed and registration number of any motorist who is driving above the statutory limit. Culprits can expect to receive a warning letter concerning their offence but will not be fined in the usual way. However, persistent offenders will be dealt with by the police. After the session on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Lesbury this group were off to Swarland , Longframlington and Rothbury!



**Nature notes-** Peer over the old Lesbury Bridge and you could be lucky and see one or even two dippers which are hanging around on the river there. Also known as water ousel, dippers are dark brown blackbird size birds with a large white crescent on the breast. Their bobbing action catches the eye as they stand on a stone watching for tasty morsels. Fast flowing stony rivers are their preferred habitat, which they travel along with a strong direct flight. Their feeding habits differ from other water birds in that they walk along the river bed searching for invertebrates such as caddis-fly larvae and small fish. Look closer and you may even see the white nictitating membrane, third eyelid, as they blink.

**Parish Clerk**

Mrs Elizabeth Taylor  
Rivendell, Steppey Lane,  
Lesbury, NE66 3PU,  
Tel: 01665 830040  
[lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com](mailto:lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com)

**Parish Council Chairman:**

Tom Wilson 01665 830522  
[lesburyparish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesburyparish@yahoo.co.uk)

**Parish Council meetings** are held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk)