



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 36 - September, 2013)

**i Northumberland**- John Wright, chairman of the PC, organised a meeting which was attended by more than 30 people. John Cooper, iNorthumberland's digital engagement manager, gave an overview and update of the initiative. Residents should be aware that superfast broadband does not necessarily mean that your current system will be faster but that you will be able to access faster broadband from your ISP. Alnmouth and Lesbury may benefit with early access to superfast broadband but support for the programme to gain extra funding for more outlying areas is needed so please register your interest at [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk).

**Stepping stones at Greenrigg**- Work is in progress to renew the stepping stones at Greenrigg that have been damaged during various flood events. This is an ideal time as the river is low but unfortunately the contractors have encountered significant problems leading to a redesign of the scheme. As a consequence we have no date for completion.



**Proposed development, Lesbury Main Road**-The application, by Northumberland Estates, to build 8 houses behind the cottages in Lesbury was not approved by NCC Planning Committee by 6 votes to 2 votes following an objection by the conservation group on the committee. It is not known if NE intends to appeal this decision.



**National Rail**- Now you may wonder what the "new road" is for, in the field alongside the High Path? Apparently there are some drainage issues north of the railway station. New drains need to be laid and the road, made of 4000 tons of recycled hard-core, is to facilitate access to the site for the heavy plant needed to do the work. This is expected to take 10 -12 weeks.

**Northumbria in Bloom**- The final result for NIB will be out on the 17th September. It is hoped that our "special case" areas, the Coach, Foxton Golf Club and Alnmouth Railway Station will do well but the rest of the Parish will be of a moderate standard. If we wish to improve in 2014 it really is necessary to raise our game in the Parish outside the special case entries. The Parish Council already uses local tradesmen to maintain the Pond Field Playground. This basic work is to be extended to other green areas and the car park near the Post Office. In order to improve and enhance our NIB result, we need to have a NIB local group for 2014, independent from but liaising with, the Parish Council. If you would like to lead or be part of this volunteer NIB group, look in the next newsletter for details of how to proceed.



**Speed watch**- As to present Speedwatch to Brown (County Speedwatch local County councillor, represented the PC. Three overview of the scheme prior to deciding whether



promised Roxy Bird held a meeting in Lesbury Village Hall the community. Also attending were WPC Liz Wilson, David organiser), Jack Hasson (Speedwatch volunteer) and our Heather Cairns. David Knowles and Tom Wilson potential volunteers from our community were given an and a chance to try out the speed monitoring equipment or not to volunteer for training. Councillor Cairns has

stated that speeding through our Parish was the number one topic when she was canvassing before the recent elections.

**Dog waste bins-** Following complaints from a resident regarding 12 bags of dog dirt dumped on his land near to the kissing gate at the bottom of Steppey Lane, the PC asked NCC to move one of the waste bins from the picnic site on the north side of the bridge to the bottom of Steppey Lane. Following recent changes in the regulations **any** waste bin can be used to dispose of **bagged** dog dirt. It should be said that our good neighbour in Steppey Lane was cutting back the verges by the road when he made this discovery! Clearly someone was not similarly community minded.



**Footpaths-** This has been the summer to get out and about in the Parish made all the easier by Northumberland Estates who have kept many of the paths clear. Our special thanks go to the staff at Percy Farms who have made an excellent job of clearing the path along the north side of the river from Steppey Lane Bridge towards Alnmouth.

**Stephen Carey fund-** In August Alnmouth F C organised a Family Fun Day held on the football pitch at Hipsburn.

The event raised £1,882, to be spent on a defibrillator for the local community. The Stephen Carey Fund was set up in memory of the 21-year-old footballer who collapsed and died while playing for his village team. More information can be found on

<http://thestephencareyfund.co.uk/>



**Visitors to the area-** Yes we have a lot of holidaymakers in the area this year but probably the rarest visitor was a Spotted Sandpiper which turned up on 27th July and stayed for several days at Foxtan. The Spotted Sandpiper is the North American equivalent of our Common Sandpiper which breeds fairly commonly on the upland streams of Britain. It was seen with 16 Common Sandpipers and "may" have been migrating with them, having crossed the Atlantic. It is only the 3rd record of this bird in Northumberland. Other unusual wildlife around the river this summer includes an egret (small white heron) near Foxtan and numerous sightings of otters.

**Heritage Open Days-** Residents and visitors to Northumberland will be given a rare opportunity to see some of the county's hidden architectural treasures when the doors to many of its most historic buildings will open to the public, free of charge. The event is taking place between 12 - 15th September. NCC is coordinating the event in the county. For more information please visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk/hods](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/hods) or look out for leaflets that will be available from your local library or tourist information centre.

**Lesbury Bowling Club-** Come along to dominoes in the clubhouse on Tuesday afternoons commencing Tuesday 17th September at 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Cost £1.00p per person which includes a cup of tea and biscuits. The club will also be holding a Jumble Sale in the clubhouse from 10.00am until 2.00pm on Saturday 24th October.



**Section 106 money-** Recently John Wright, Lesbury PC Chairman presented a cheque to Alnmouth and Lesbury Cricket club for £2000; the cash will be spent on new equipment for the youth teams.

### Parish Council Contacts.

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**Parish Council Chairman:** John Wright; Tel. 01665 830127, email [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)