



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

(Issue 39 - April 2014)

Spring Thing Concert (9<sup>th</sup> May) - Mary Hollins will be outside Lesbury Post Office 8.30 to 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April selling tickets and collecting money for ordered tickets

**Proposed development, rear of the Post Office and cottages (13/03037/FUL)** - Following the Parish Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013, when this application was supported by the PC, three residents registered official complaints against the PC with Northumberland County Council. The accusations and allegations concerning the way that the PC handled their review of the application were investigated by the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with an Independent Person. The PC was, subsequently, informed by Mr Liam Henry, the Principal Lawyer for NCC that the Monitoring Officer considered that the complaints did not demonstrate a breach of the Council Code of Conduct and no action would be taken against the PC. The PC was deemed to have acted in the spirit and letter of the law as it applies to PC's on matters of planning applications. All parties have received, in writing, the outcome of the review; the judgement is final and cannot be appealed or overturned.

**Parish matters-** Residents have received their Council Tax bills and as we warned in the last Newsletter the PC precept has been increased. The increase on the bill is 24.4% but this is not a frightening as it looks as it reflects an approximate £5 extra per annum / household, (based on a Band D property). Our precept is one of the lowest in the County. Part of the precept will go towards parish maintenance. Where possible we would like to have volunteers carry out some minor maintenance and re-siting and fixing down a wooden bench with metal spikes is a typical example. However, we realise that some maintenance has to be contracted out and the PC has developed a schedule of such works which is available to view on our web site.



**School/football club car-park-** This project to tarmac part of the car park has been ongoing for a number of years and has finally been completed with money from Roger Styring's 2012 - 13 small scheme allowance when he was a County Councillor.

**High voltage cable system-** Clancydowra are working around road to Alnmouth in an area from the Hip Burn along the line of the hedge between the football and cricket pitches and then down to the sewage plant. Some new "guillotine-like" poles

(section points) have been erected, effectively dividing the new underground cable system into a series of shorter sections, which will assist in the location and isolation of a fault should one occur. It is believed that 20 to 24 existing poles will come down eventually including 4 in Steppey Lane but we have no date as yet.



**Parish Council vacancies-** Currently we have 3 vacancies and have received 2 applications of interest. We do need more candidates as in May three Councillors will be standing down. Please step forward and have your say in how the Parish is run. If you are interested in this unpaid role, please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

**Speedwatch volunteers-** Speedwatch is a Northumberland Police scheme for local people to help control speeding traffic through our villages. We need 3 more volunteers to make the scheme work in Lesbury and Hipsburn. Full training is given by the Police, and only about 20 minutes of your time is needed when the team goes out. Speeding is one of the most frequent complaints received by the Parish Council; this is your chance to help reduce it. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact Cllr. Dave Knowles on 01665 830467.

**Lesbury Village Hall (Then and Now)-** Minutes of the Village Hall Committee meetings give an idea of what a vibrant and active community there was in the 1970s. There were jumble sales for the British Legion, the Brownies, The Autumn Club, the Guides, the Church, the Football Club, the Parent Teachers' Association, The Pigeon Club and the Cricket Club. There were dancing classes, drama rehearsals, pantomimes, bingo nights, coffee mornings, barn dances, parties for the Sunday School, the Guides and



the Brownies, as well as, concerts and events celebrating christenings, birthdays, anniversaries and weddings. The Village Hall Committee is trying to improve the facilities at the Hall e.g. new chairs have been purchased with Section 106 money from the PC. The old, plastic chairs are available for any local organisation or charity free of charge. The VH committee is developing plans for new toilets, heating and kitchen refurbishment. It is also keen to increase the range and number of activities that take place, one of the initiatives is the showing of films on a monthly basis. As a trial they successfully screened the film 'Philomena' on Friday 21st March and propose

to screen another popular film, "Captain Phillips" with Tom Hanks, on Saturday 12th April at 7pm. The Village Hall Committee is looking for other ideas and input from residents, please get in touch with committee members or via the new website at [www.lesburyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lesburyvillagehall.co.uk).

**Northumbria in Bloom**- Following a recent campaign 11 volunteers have offered their services to carry out maintenance and planting prior to the 2014 judging in the Parish. Volunteers will work with the PC, Foxton Golf Club, Alnmouth Station and the Coach Inn to provide a community effort. Work has commenced on further improving the park at the Lealands entrance and plans are being developed for preparing other areas to an acceptable level. *(From Ian August)*



**Shepherd's Hut meeting room**- This has arrived at the Post Office and will be available for the community to use. Thank you Carol and Roger for successfully winning the £10,000 Community Enterprise funding and your creativity in the use of the iconic hut as a meeting place.



**Community Resilience**- Communities all across Northumberland are joining together to develop their very own Community Resilience Plans to prepare and react to things like flood, heavy snowfall and other severe weather events and emergencies. The volunteers compliment the role of the emergency services. If you think you would like to form a volunteer action group, support is available by contacting Lynne Dunleavy - Northumberland Community Flooding Partnership on 01207 658110 or any Parish Councillor.

**Nature note**- Spare a thought for the much maligned mole. Now you would think that the local churchyard would be the most benign of places where everything is peaceful, and creatures can live in harmony with nature. Apparently not! As if on the A1, with notices warning of speed cameras, there are signs warning of mole traps, but unfortunately not in mole language. Believe it or not the mole does have a welcome role to play. Whilst spending hours a day digging tunnels for its hunting ground, it feeds off unpopular slugs, snails, and wireworms - the larvae of click beetles which destroy vegetable roots. Ironically, when one mole is removed, there is always another ready to move in. The advice given from 'arcworld.org' under 'Pesky Plants and Animals' is that 'it may well be best to learn to live with your mole and press molehills back into the ground'; such a simple solution, one wonders why it hasn't been put into use before?



**SHAK Spring Fayre**- Sat 19 April from 10am to 1pm in Lesbury Village Hall. Hot drinks, handmade cakes, crafts. Also tombola, bric a brac & book sale. Entry £1 with All proceeds go to support SHAK local dog rescue.

**Easter Bingo**- Wed, 23 April, 19:00 - 21:30. All are invited to an Exciting Night of Fun and Laughter in aid of Hall Funds

**Lesbury Bowling Club** is having a Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th April in the clubhouse commencing at 10.00am and members of the committee will be in attendance in case anyone would like to enquire about joining us for our new season. A full fixture list of league and friendly matches has been planned and we would welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

**SPRING THING CONCERT AT LESBURY VILLAGE HALL** - An evening of fun-filled entertainment featuring "MISSPENT UKE" - premier Ukulele Ensemble based in Newcastle and "THE ATTIC BAND" - delicious swing and sumptuous harmonies from the 1930s and '40s. Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014 doors open at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £8 each From Lesbury Post Office or call 01665 830330. Proceeds towards Hall improvements.

**Parish Council Contacts.**

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

[lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com](mailto:lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com).

**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)