



LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 21 - Feb. 2011)

The Parish Council is on-line www.Lesbury-pc.org.uk

Thank you Jenny. The Parish Council would like to thank Jenny Trapp for her services as Parish Clerk. Unfortunately she has had to resign due to work commitments.

Our new Parish Clerk
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor
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The Village Shop - Since the last edition of the Newsletter the village has experienced the surprise closure of Lesbury village shop and Post Office. Robert and Barbara Thompson ran this facility for a number of years and provided a great service to the community. Already they are missed in many ways and by numerous people and community groups. On behalf of the residents the Parish Council would like to thank them for their service and wish them well for the future. One lesson that can be learnt and one that Robert would re-iterate was "use it or lose it" and it is incumbent on the community to use any new facility that may arise in the future.

However, things have progressed! On 17th December, 2010 an open, exploratory meeting was held to discuss potential options for a future trading facility in the Parish. The meeting was attended by over 100 people and chaired by Councillor Roger Styring. The outcome was the formation of a Steering Committee to look at different retail options. These are provision of newspapers, the re-opening of a Post Office and development of a Village Shop. Residents should by now be aware that four parishioners (Carol and Roger Southam, Julie Dodson and Mick Williams) have worked hard to develop a plan to re-establish a retail facility. The first stage will see the re-introduction of a newspaper service which will start on 14th February from St Mary's Church. Flyers have been sent round to households announcing this event and explaining how newspapers and magazines can be ordered. (See www.Lesbury-pc.org.uk if you have missed them). For this project to be successful it must be supported by residents and terms and conditions for payments of services need to be met. The second and third stages for the introduction of a Post Office and Village Shop are still under development. The Parish Council would like to thank Carol, Roger, Julie and Mick for all the hard work they have put into the project, especially in such a short time scale, and wish them success with their venture.

Alnmouth Station Car Park



It is February 7th and today the much awaited car park is open and ready for use providing some 68 parking spaces. It has been a difficult project, from both an engineering and financial point of view. The weather did not help either! However this should solve some of the severe parking problems in South View and particularly Curly Lane. Arriva Buses have been notified of the new, improved situation and should now be running their full bus service to the Station.

Parish Precept 2011-2012 - The reduction in government funding to Northumberland County Council is conservatively estimated at £110 million over three years. The Parish Council do not know how this will affect services to the Parish of Lesbury. Certain assurances have been given but only in the short term. The PC is determined to continue its development and maintenance programme and as a consequence the Precept has been increased, on average, by £5 per household per annum. (Based on a Band D property). Lesbury will still have one of the lowest precepts in Northumberland.

Christmas lights - For the second year running, there was a decorated Christmas tree in the Square on South View. Thanks to the many people who helped in the erection of the tree and who kept the lights illuminated. A hardy group of about 20 children and adults gathered around the tree to sing carols and were rewarded with mince pies and hot drinks. It is hoped that this event will continue next year with more people enjoying the occasion and getting into the Christmas spirit. In addition the large willow tree in the Memorial Garden was also decorated and was appreciated by many people.



Station Cottages- - Work has been completed to stabilise the highway and to build a retaining wall along the front of Station Cottages to stop future problems of landslip into their gardens and subsidence of the road. As can be seen in the "before" and "after" photos the result is dramatic.



Nature Notes- On a mild damp night take out a torch and bucket and you might help to save a few lives. Bufo bufo (common) Toads are on the move. They've awakened after the cold winter and only have one thing on their minds, to get to the marshes to mate, regardless of how many dangerous roads there are to cross. A lucky toad could live for 40 years, but loss of habitat and treacherous journeys have seen it added to the watch-list of threatened species. So keep your head down and look for those unexpected, rather sluggish, jumping lumps, pick them up and carry them in the direction they're travelling to some nice, wet vegetation, and leave them to it.



Pupil Report form Hipsburn School - The accordion is a very unusual instrument and I think it is fun. If you can play the keyboard, you can learn lots of tunes; fast tunes, slow tunes and traditional tunes like Serenade. I think it is fun because you can do shows, you can sing along to it and you won't get bored. I learned how to play the keyboard side and now we are on the button side. Mrs Tocker is our teacher. **Why don't you have a go! BT Year 4**

Lesbury Outdoor Bowling Club - You will find us along School Lane between the Village Hall and the Church. In 2010 we celebrated 25th anniversary, a great achievement for such a small club. The bowling season normally begins 3rd Saturday in April and lasts until September. In the winter we hold domino afternoons every Tuesday starting at 2.00pm. We charge £2.00 to play which includes tea, biscuits and raffle. We would be delighted to see anyone from the village who would like to pass a couple of hours in friendly company - come and join us.

Parish Council Chairman:

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Have your say, give your comments, tell us about your events and news - contact Bob Dutton 01665 830801.

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