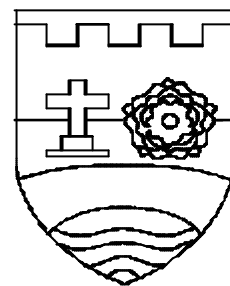


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2011

Councillors

	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	600482
Peter Fenemore	600572
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
Paul Walmsley	07545 641052
Vacancy	

Alan Platt (Clerk to the Council)
can be contacted at:

9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX

Tel: 01257 234003

e-mail:
crostonpc@btinternet.com

website:
www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk

Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), in The Old School, Church Street, Croston.

All residents are welcome to attend and a section of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues.

Noticeboards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities and details of meetings etc. The noticeboards are located on the Village Green, outside the Co-op, in front of the Police Station and by the Surgery on Brookfield.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to include A4 sized posters to publicise forthcoming events etc should contact the Clerk.

Double for Croston

The village has been named as the Best Kept Large Village in Lancashire in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2011, with the War Memorial, maintained by the Parish Council, taking the honours in the War Memorial Category.

The village also received a Silver Medal in the Large Village category of the North West in Bloom 2011 Competition, with Church Street and The Orchard receiving Neighbourhood Awards.

The Parish Council is delighted with the results and would like to thank all the residents who contributed to the awards by keeping the village clean and tidy and providing hanging baskets, planters and window boxes. We'd also like to acknowledge the sterling efforts of our Village Lengthsman, Kevin Greenhalgh, who is out in all weathers keeping the village free of litter.

Vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr John Forrest a vacancy exists on the Parish Council which may be filled by co-option.

John was elected to the Parish Council in 2003 and, since then, has worked tirelessly on behalf of the village and its residents. The Parish Council would like to thank John for his past service to the village. His efforts will be sadly missed.

If you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply, in writing or by email, to the Clerk (details to the left), providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council. If you would like further information please also contact the Clerk.

Applicants must be British subjects, aged over 18 years old and registered electors, must reside in, or within 3 miles of, the Croston parish boundary or occupy as owners or tenants any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

Vandalism

Mindless individuals have recently taken to ripping out plants from the flower boxes on the river walls and Town Bridge. Whilst these tiny minded individuals might find this entertaining, unfortunately replacing the plants is paid for from resident's council tax.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously please contact the Police (details on back page) or any member of the Council.



**Croston Parish Council would like to
wish all residents a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year**



Croston Acorns Nursery Ltd

6b Station Road, Croston

01772 601074

Open 51 weeks, 8am-6pm

**Registered as a Lancashire
County Council
"Step In To Quality"
Setting.**

We currently have limited places
in all classrooms including
FREE PLACES
in our Pre-School

We provide quality childcare
and education for children
aged 0-5 years in our
modernised setting.

All staff are fully qualified with
regular training being attended
including First Aid etc.

Good relationships
with local schools.

Please make an appointment to
look round our modernised nursery
and outdoor play area.

Or call us for more information

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**Fully Insured Dog Walking
and
Horse Care Service**



BHS NVQ Level 1 Horse Care

Dog boarding available



Prices available on request



Service by appointment only



References available on request



Covering Croston and
surrounding villages



Ellen Peet



Tel: **07704 884700**



email: emp_burridge@hotmail.co.uk

Nicholsons

Ligan House, 32 Town Road, Croston

Tel: **01772 601700**

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ventures and charities

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appointments and out of hours
appointments can be arranged

Please telephone for a **free** initial appointment

Annual Report

Following his recent resignation from The Parish Council, I would like to express my thanks to John Forrest for his hard work over several years of service and wish him well for the future. Anyone wishing to be co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy John leaves should contact the Clerk.

Sadly we have seen a significant rise in crime in the village in recent weeks although it is pleasing to note that some of the culprits have been apprehended by the police. I have been informed that regular Police patrols have been stepped up and would urge all residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

I was pleased to attend 2 awards ceremonies recently to collect trophies and certificates which the village has been awarded. In the 'Lancashire Best Kept Village' completion we were awarded 1st prize in the Large Village Category and in The 'North West in Bloom' we received a Silver award. Sadly I have to report that vandals have already removed some of the winter bedding which has only recently been planted along the river wall on Town Road.

The village marked Remembrance Sunday this year with a very well attended Service at St Michael's Church. It was pleasing to see some many members of the scouts and guides attending as well as children from our primary school.

With Christmas fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of all my fellow Councillors.

Anne Peet

Environment Agency Flood Warnings

Following a recent river modelling study, which showed the parts of the village that would be affected by flood events of different severity, the Environment Agency have updated the flood warning area for Croston.

To find out if you are affected by these changes call the Environment Agency's Floodline number on 0845 988 1188. If you are already registered to receive Environment Agency free flood warnings you do not have to re-register.

It is important to highlight that the flood warning area only takes into account the risk of flooding from the River Yarrow. It does not include any flooding that is caused by highway drains or the sewerage system.

If you would like to receive greater advanced notice of possible flooding in Croston, you can also opt to receive the Environment Agency's flood alert messages for

the Lower Douglas catchment. These messages will usually be issued before any flood warnings and indicate the possibility of flooding anywhere within the lower section of the River Douglas, which includes the River Yarrow.

To find out if you are eligible to receive free flood warnings and flood alerts, and get information on preparing for floods, call the Environment Agency's Floodline on **0845 988 1188** or visit the website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest

Local Businesses

If you would like to reach around 1250 households in the village via the Parish Council newsletter contact the Clerk (details on p1).

We can offer **full colour** ads in the colour insert. A half column ad costs £30 (£45 colour) and a quarter column £15 (£22.50).

The Parish Council does not endorse or recommend any of the advertisers contained in this publication.

Neighbourhood Fund for VIP's in Croston

Villages in Partnership (VIP) have secured £696 of funding from the Chorley Community Housing Neighbourhood Fund towards the set up of VIP Coffee Mornings at Croston Community Centre.

The coffee mornings run on the first Friday of each month and offer regular attractions such as cake and a brew at a bargain price, raffle and tombola (proceeds go to the charity), charity shops and other stalls run by local entrepreneurs.

The Villages in Partnership charity provides a range of services such as community projects and project management, support and advice to rural communities within Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire.

Neighbourhood Development Officer for Adactus, Chris Richardson, said: "VIP coffee mornings are a great way to bring the community together and offer an opportunity to showcase local businesses and produce whilst raising money for the VIP charity at the same time."

Annally Percival of Villages in Partnership said "VIP are delighted to have received funding from the CCH neighbourhood fund, the money will go a long way to bringing together residents of the villages."

For more information on Villages in Partnership and VIP coffee mornings visit www.villagesinpartnership.org.uk



L - r Sarah Johnson, Annally Percival and John Forrest (VIP), Chris Richardson (CCH)



We hope the bin will end this type of behaviour by dog walkers

Calling Dog Owners

Following requests from residents the Parish Council has provided a combined litter bin at the entrance to the public footpath by the railway bridge.

We hope dog walkers will use the bin for their dog waste and not just leave it lying or, even worse hang their bags on fences, signs or throw them into the bushes.

www.
GreenLight
driving school.com

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1000 DSA Passes per year!

2011 Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all who donated to the Appeal this year.

Thanks also to everyone who attended this year's Parade and Service.



Floodlit Driving Range

Our floodlit driving range is open 8am to 8pm
Our Pay and Play 9 hole course is open every day
Xmas Gift vouchers now on offer from £10 upwards
Lessons, Clubs, Golf and Range Membership
Official Wilson Fitting Centre
Juniors golf equipment a speciality

SOUTHPORT GOLF ACADEMY at leisure lakes
The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton
01772 815842 • www.southport-golf.co.uk

Croston Village Festivities Group
Come and join in the Christmas Festivities
www.crostonfestivities.co.uk

11th December
1.00pm - 5.30pm
Croston Village

- ☞ Craft and Food Stalls
- ☞ Mulled Wine, Hog Roast, Venison Burgers, Roasted Chestnuts
- ☞ Santa's Grotto
- ☞ Santa's Train
- ☞ Kiddies Fun Fair
- ☞ Piper, Magician, Street Entertainers
- ☞ Community Choir
- ☞ Brass Bands
- ☞ Raffle

We look forward to seeing you
Everyone's welcome

Moor Road Housing Development

The development of ten 2 bedroom houses and fourteen 3 bedroom houses by Adactus Housing Association at Moor Road is progressing well and should be completed in summer 2012.

As part of the agreement to build these homes, Adactus are required to consider households in housing need with a local connection to the parish of Croston first. This is to ensure that as many as possible of the 24 houses are let to households with a local connection to Croston.

A local connection means that the person who is considered for the tenancy needs to have either:

- ?? lived in the parish for at least three of the past five years
- ?? worked in the parish for at least twelve months
- ?? a parent, grandparent, child or sibling living in the parish for at least five years

Should there not be enough families with a local connection to Croston to fill all the houses, priority to any properties still to be filled will be given to families with a local connection to the parishes of Bretherton and Eccleston.



Artists impression of the Moor Road site

Adactus, along with other landlords in Chorley, use a system known as Selectmove to allocate their homes. Selectmove is a choice based lettings system whereby the person looking for accommodation can check what properties are available on a weekly basis, and then express an interest in the property they wish to be considered for.

Adactus plan to advertise the Moor Road properties on Selectmove between Friday 13th January 2012 and Wednesday 18th January 2012.

If you are interested in these properties and are unsure whether you are registered on the Selectmove system please contact Adactus on 0845 505 3355 or 0300 111 3355 (from a mobile).

Croston Acorns Nursery Receives Award

We are pleased to announce that Croston Acorns Nursery has received the 'Step into Quality Award' from Lancashire County Council.

The award provides an opportunity for the nursery to spend focused time looking at what they do every day and considering which parts work well and which could be improved upon.

The six steps are Environment, Interactions, Routines, and Key person, Parents and Leadership and Management. Reflection on practice within these areas has supported staff development and also had a positive impact on practice and provision within the setting.

The management, staff and parents are really proud of our achievement and the nursery will continue on through the Quality awards.



Staff from Croston Acorns receiving the Award

Duxburys
Est. 1992

Frank
Says

" 12 months garden maintenance
and from only £35.00 per month"



0800 005 1500
www.duxburysgardenservices.co.uk



Tree Spree for Croston

The Parish Council is proposing to apply for funding to run a Tree Spree next year. A Tree Spree is not a new idea, but very simply it is a celebration of an area's trees and tree heritage. There are a number of elements to this, all are highly dependant upon the nature of an area and the opportunities and interests of the community delivering the project.

At first glance Croston is a well wooded, well treed village. However the 1970s and 80s saw the demise of Elm trees from our hedgerows and two recent harsh winters have also made their mark on the local tree population. In addition, we now know that the Horse Chestnut is currently under threat nationally.

Many of our existing tree mature trees, the big ones that we all recognise are all of an even age. These are likely to mature and come to the end of their natural life at a similar time, so the time is absolutely right to find appropriate sites to plant the next generation.

A key component of the project will be to instigate a programme of community based tree planting. The main activity will be to focus planting where trees will be most visible, where the maximum number of people will see and enjoy them. This could be in school grounds, sports/recreation grounds and along main highways and in front gardens. There is a need to restock with a diverse range of trees to provide for the next generation.

To be successful with grant funding we need to involve as many local people as possible. Involvement in the project could mean help with events and activities, tree planting, delivering leaflets or compiling information.

The closing date for articles/ adverts for the next newsletter is 16 February 2012.

Tree Spree (cont)

We would like to thank Croston resident, Tim Blythe, who has offered his own time to lead and coordinate this work.

Tim works for Lancashire County Council's Environment Directorate and his expertise in grant funding, environmental planning and community led regeneration will provide a valuable contribution.

Our timetable is for planning work and activities to take place next summer (2012) with actual tree planting taking place during the winter of 2012/13.

If you would like to know more, or like to be involved on a working group then please get your details to Tim Blythe on 01772 603339 or email- tim.blythe@lancashire.gov.uk

or post a note at - 7 Out Lane (red door).

Litter Bins

The Parish Council has recently replaced the two concrete bins on the Village Green and by the seat on Grape Lane.

The concrete bins have not been disposed of - instead they been recycled onto the Recreation Ground where previous attempts to provide new plastic bins were thwarted by vandals who removed and stole the outer casings and trashed the liners.

Road Accidents

Several accidents, some involving minor injuries to pedestrians and cyclists, occurred towards the end of summer and the Parish Council would like to remind residents that all these accidents should be reported to the Police.

Reporting accidents is important as it enables the authorities to build up an accurate picture of the safety, or otherwise, of Croston's roads and pavements, which is required to demonstrate a need for any future action to prevent these accidents.

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

Coming Soon

Phil Cool

Friday 3 Feb 2012

Tickets £15

Now on sale

Rooms available to hire for
meetings, seminars,
conferences, special occasions

Hiring rates available
on request

Generous discounts
available to local
charitable organisations

www.croston-old-school.org

Registered Charity No. 1074784

Registered as a company in England & Wales

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So who are technohow?

Lukas and Neil are local IT and datacoms specialists, who between them, have thirty years professional experience.

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Mobile: 07777 631689

email: neil@technohow.co.uk

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at
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Thursday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am - 3.00pm

Tel: Ian (01772)

601272

21 Town Road, Croston

Lancashire Constabulary

Reported crimes have increased dramatically recently with burglaries, thefts and damage to vehicles all on the rise.

If you see acting suspiciously don't hesitate to report them to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

With the cold weather in mind and whilst defrosting your vehicles, please do not leave your engine running when you are not with the vehicle - opportunist thieves love this time of year because you warm your car up for them to jump into and drive off. Should this happen to you despite our warnings, your insurance will not pay out!

With Christmas almost upon us, make sure you do not leave gifts in the car or in view from a window and also please make sure you do not advertise your gifts to would be thieves by leaving boxes and packaging on show outside your house awaiting refuse collection.

Now for the good news! - I have a limited number of free cycle helmets available in the run up to Christmas. Anyone interested should contact me at Coppull Police Station on 01257 246103

PCSO 7932 Maria Fetherstone



Croston Needs You!

Hello. We are delighted to announce the recent formation of the Friends of Croston Recreation Ground group. We currently have five members but we need more!

The Recreation Ground includes the Play Park and Field next to it off Station Road. We think it needs updating so the whole community can benefit from it better. We are working with the Parish Council to refurbish the Play Park so that it is a nicer and more productive place for the children and adults who use it and ensure that the field can be used by everyone, young and not so young to play games and learn new skills.

Exciting hey? But we can't do it all ourselves. This is a community resource and to make it reflective of the rest of Croston we need the community to get involved. So, if you want to make the recreational ground a better place, please contact Emma Blackman on 01772 600904 or email at emma@verynicethings.co.uk

Don't be shy, whoever you are you can help us make a real difference in our community. We need Mums, Dads, Children, Teenagers, Grandparents, Tradesmen, Businesses, everybody to get involved.

It's our community resource and we need to improve it, together. For our children and our childrens children.

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jmcdougallelectrical.co.uk



Handyperson Service

Chorley Council is delighted to announce the formation of a new partnership with Preston Care and Repair to provide a handy person service to vulnerable people across the borough. The service is available to older and/or disabled homeowners or private tenants in the borough.

For details call Preston Care and Repair on 01772 204096

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (non-emergency)
0845 1 25 35 45

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Report problems regarding the
Station and station car park
area to British Transport Police
on: 0800 405040

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

Report problems with roads
and pavements, including
street lighting, to Lancashire
County Council on:

0845 0530011

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Environment Agency
Floodline 0845 988 1188