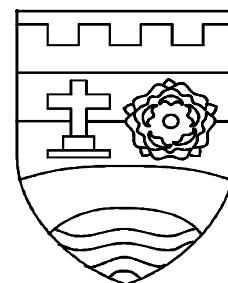


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



March 2011

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tel

Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Stephen Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)	601025
Kath Almond	600368
Robert Baker	600482
John Forrest	601216
Chris Gibbons	601962
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
Beryl Thompson	600900

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.

Parish Council Tax Down

Croston Parish Council has announced a 4.25% reduction in the cost of the Parish Precept to residents for the next financial year.

In view of the current financial climate the Parish Council wanted to make sure the burden on our council tax payers will not increase this year. Despite the reduction the services currently provided by the Council will be unaffected and funds have been included for the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device which will log traffic speeds to identify problem areas, which will be notified to the local Police.

Services provided by the Parish Council include the Village Lengthsman, who picks litter from the major routes through the village, ongoing maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Play Area and the Village Green, mowing of the Recreation Field and the Village Green and grass verges throughout the village. The Council also provides the Christmas lights on the Village Green and opposite the War Memorial, spring and summer planting of the tubs and beds around the village, wayside seats, the existing (shared) Speed Indicator Device, emptying of dog waste bins and the requisite insurance cover.

Community Flood Plan

The latest meeting for the development of the Flood Plan took place on Tuesday 25 January 2011.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the event of flooding, helping with things like notifying residents of problems, traffic control, filling and distribution of sandbags and, in the most extreme circumstances, assisting with moving elderly and vulnerable residents to safety. For details please contact the Clerk (see contact list to left).

Local resident, Peter Fenemore, has volunteered to co-ordinate an overview study to identify the different causes of flooding and look at possible options for reducing the severity (see article overleaf).

Residents who are affected by flooding to Grape Lane, Carvers Brow and Shevington Causeway can register to receive Flood Alerts for "Lostock and Yarrow" and the "Lower Douglas" as well as Flood Warnings for "River Yarrow at Croston" by calling the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or registering through the website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk (please be aware that, unfortunately, flood forecasting is not an exact science and there is a chance you may receive some Flood Alerts that turn out to be false alarms. If this happens let the Environment Agency know and they will use the evidence to make improvements).

The Parish Council would like to, once again, reiterate to all residents that the flood defence of a property is the responsibility of the householder.

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Chairman's Message

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council, by careful budgeting, has once again reduced the Parish Precept for this year by almost £1000. Our main focus for this year will be the Recreation Ground Project as we seek to obtain grant funding to match the funds we have been building over the last 2 years.

I would like to thank Stefan Mosalski who recently resigned following 3 years as a member of the Parish Council. As a member of the recreation ground working group his input has been much appreciated and I would like to wish him well.

I would also like to congratulate the Croston Village Festivities Group for yet another wonderful event on 12 December last. Once again the weather was kind and it was wonderful to see people of all ages enjoying the activities.

Finally on a more serious note, Councillors are still being inundated by complaints around the village regarding dog mess on pavements and public footpaths. I would remind residents that if they see anyone allowing their dog to foul in a public place they should report the matter to Chorley Council, on 01257 515151, who will investigate further. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

Anne Peet

Croston Flooding

Over the weekend of 5-6 February heavy rain and sewer flooding in Grape Lane was accompanied by worrying rises in river levels.

The Environment Agency website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk) provides updates on the level of the Yarrow. For details, click on 'River and sea levels' in the 'At home and leisure section', click 3 times on the 'North West' map to enlarge and click on the green 'Croston' dot.

Data for the predicted tide heights and times at Southport are available at www.pol.ac.uk/ntslf/tides/?port=0447

Local resident, Peter Fenemore, has volunteered to co-ordinate an overview study to try to identify the relative extent of the different causes of flooding in the village and look at possible options for reducing the severity. The study will also look at ways to provide more specific and relevant prior warning of flooding.

To assist with this a questionnaire has been produced, which is available on the Parish Council's website, or by request from the Clerk (see contact list on front page).

Christmas 2010

Once again, our wholehearted thanks go to Cath and Graham Wilson from Drinkhouse Garage for kindly donating the Christmas tree.

This years tree was so impressive that, following requests from a number of residents, we have left it in place temporarily.

Thanks also to the Members of Croston Village Festivities Group for their efforts in putting on the Christmas Festivities on Sunday 12th December. Once again another marvellous event!

Villages in Partnership Community Grants Programme, Spring 2011

Is your community group looking for funding????

The VIP Grants Programme is open to local groups to apply for up to £500 for worthwhile community causes.

For more information or to apply for a grant, call 01772 603591 or email

vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk

Closing Date for completed applications:

Thursday 31st March 2011

Croston's Community Flood Plan

The last meeting of the Croston Community Flood Action Group was on 25 January 2011.

At the meeting, people decided on the roles that they would volunteer for during a flood. For example, some people have volunteered to help with sandbags while others have agreed to help their neighbours move furniture.

All this information will be written up into a community flood plan for the area. Once the plan is complete, it will be handed over to the residents for them to keep updated.

The more people who are involved, either because they live in a flood risk area or are willing to volunteer their help during a major flood, the better. So, if you would like to find out more, please contact Laura Travers at the Environment Agency, on 07917 580679.

The next meeting of the Community Flood Action Group is likely to be held in April/May. We'll be ringing the group to let them know the exact date nearer the time. At that stage, we'll also put posters up around the village to advertise the details.



Previous flooding in the village (1987)
(photo courtesy of D Massom)

We'll also be holding an additional, smaller meeting with representatives from the Flood Group and the organisations involved in flooding. This is so we can discuss some specific, local issues in more detail.

In the meantime, further information on flood risk and preparing for flooding is available from the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188. You can also go to their website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodnorthwest

Residents who are affected by flooding to Grape Lane, Carvers Brow and Shevington Causway can register to receive Flood Alerts for "Lostock and Yarrow" and the "Lower Douglas" as well as Flood Warnings for "River Yarrow at Croston" also by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or registering through the website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Laura Travers (Environment Agency)

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items provided by third party contributors.

Route Changes to Bus Service 112

The 112, Croston to Preston Service, is now travelling in a **clockwise** direction around the village. This is to enable residents to travel in the opposite direction to Bus Service 7, Croston to Chorley, which runs **anti-clockwise**.



In the timetable, the times for Bishop Rawstorne and Station Road will be reversed. Bus stop signs are to be placed shortly.

Bus Shelter

Whilst on the subject of buses, the Parish Council is negotiating with Lancashire County Council for the installation of a shelter for the stop on Highfield Road at Bishop Rawstorne College.

Hopefully, provided there are no objection from a consultation with local properties, the bus stop will be supplied by LCC

under its Parish and Town Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme where LCC provides funding for the shelter and the Parish Council takes on the ongoing maintenance, cleaning, power supply etc.



The Queenbury 'Arun' shelter
(Croston's shelter will be Moss Green in colour)

Poppy Appeal

The Croston District came first Runner Up in this year's George Haffner Poppy Trophy, awarded for the highest percentage increase in monies raised for the Poppy Appeal over a 3 year period, for sums up to £10000.

This award is testimony to the efforts of our Door to Door Collector, and the generosity of the residents of the village.

If you can spare time, for a couple of weeks in late October/early November, for Door-to-Door Collecting, or you have a business and are willing to have a poppy tray and collection box please contact Alan on 01257 234003 or via email at crostonpc@btinternet.com

Finally, a date for your diaries - this year's Chorley Council Picnic in the Park takes place on Sunday 15 May 2011, in Astley Park, Chorley, starting at 10.30 am, to allow it to be held jointly with the Royal British Legion to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Poppy Appeal.



10th Birthday Celebrations

April 2011 sees Croston Old School celebrating it's 10th birthday. Funded by a National Lottery Grant of almost half a million pounds, the Community Resource Centre has seen a wide range of events over recent years - everything from wedding receptions



to meditation classes!

The Trustees are currently planning a series of events to mark this milestone throughout April and May so keep watching for further details on local information boards or check out our website at:

www.croston-old-school.org

The Old School has also recently embarked on a second season of entertainments, which kicked off on 25 February with local band 'Strawhead'. The concerts enable the local community to access good

Not sure where to turn? Contact Help Direct.

We are a free support and information service for all adults aged 18+ providing practical support, guidance and information to help people to make their own choices and find what works for them. We aim to get you the right help and advice before an issue becomes a crisis.

We have a large database of support, community, council and other help organisations in the area as well as a database of Safe Traders in the area working with Trading Standards.

We can provide drop in sessions in your local area if needed and can also provide support with benefits checks.

Our advisors are available Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm on the phone or feel free to drop into our office at 61-63 St Thomas Road, Chorley, PR7 1JE (no appointment necessary). Our phone line is also open every Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm for advice and information.

Call us on 0303 333 1111 (charged at local rate)

or email askus@loc.helpdirect.org.uk



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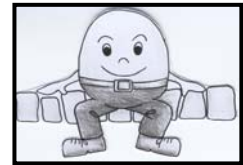


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Croston Arts Festival - Help needed!

Following on from last year's successful event, visual and performing arts will once again be top of the bill as Croston's second Arts Festival takes place on Sunday 15 May. But, to ensure the event runs smoothly, help is needed both in planning the event and on the day!

Getting under way around noon, the festival will have something for all the family to see and do across various venues throughout the village.

Plans are underway to include a range of different performances from the 2010 event, which will include theatre and drama and musical dance acts. Circus performers, children's entertainers and musical bands are likely to feature again in the festival.

The Festival will also include art displays in St Michael and All Angels C of E Church and Trinity Methodist Church, including work prepared by pupils from Bishop Rawstorne High School and local Primary Schools.

During the Festival the Trinity Methodist Church Meeting Room and the Old School Hall will again feature as Fairtrade Cafes.

As well as the many cultural events, the festival's main supporter, the Co-operative Group will illustrate key Membership and Social Goals messages and an opportunity to take part in a free prize-draw.

The festival will also provide the opportunity to visit art, craft and a variety of other trade stalls.

Admission to the festival, exhibitions, entertainment and activities will again be free and to help cover the festival's costs, a raffle will be organised with a range of excellent prizes.

If you would like to help in planning the event and/or can help on the day, please contact Terry Chaplin on 01772 603403 or email:

tgc@co-opcom.com

Citizens Advice Bureau

Need help with rent arrears, repossession or eviction notices? Are you worrying about your debts? Have you had your benefit entitlement assessed?

Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Bureaux have recently been awarded three Legal Services Commission Contracts for the residents of Chorley and South Ribble who qualify for this service*. The Contracts include Housing Matters, Welfare Benefits and Debt. The Bureaux can help you with rent arrears, repossessions, evictions, housing benefit, disrepair, accommodation, debt and welfare benefit issues.

*If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits you will automatically qualify for help - Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Guarantee Credit.

If your household is in receipt of a low income then you may still qualify.

Please telephone 01257 232138 or 01257 265432 for further details.

Don't delay – phone or call in today!

Recreation Ground Improvements

We are waiting for some information from Chorley Council's Greenspaces Officer, who offered help with ideas for improvements.

Once this is received we will look to move on with the project and, in the meantime the Parish Council has managed to put a little more money aside towards the project in the 2011-12 Parish Precept

Croston Old School

Community Resource Centre
Church Street, Croston

01772 603600

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Trustees Wanted!!!

Villages in Partnership, a local charity based in Croston, is looking for volunteers to join as Trustees.

If you have a few hours a month to spare to help this small local Charity, please give us a call.

You will also be required to attend Board Meetings - usually held the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month.

If you are interested or would like to know more information, please contact the office on 01772 603591 or email vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk

For more information about the Charity, visit www.villagesinpartnership.org.uk

Lancashire Constabulary

Once again, we need to highlight the use of lights on cycles as being essential during hours of darkness.

Any child seen riding a bike without lights on may have their bike seized and it will only be returned when parents call at the Police Station to collect it. This is for the safety and protection of both cyclists and other road users.

If you have any information with regards to any crime or suspicious activity, please either contact the Police direct or pass on information via Crimestoppers, contact numbers are shown in the Useful Telephone Numbers box below right).

If you have any queries with regards to this article or any problems please do not hesitate to contact us on:

0845 1 25 35 45 or by e-mail at:
caroline.plummer@lancashire.pnn.police.uk
maria.fetherstone@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

The closing date for receipt of articles/adverts for the next newsletter is 13 May 2011

Wanted - Old CD's/DVD's?

Do you have any old Cd's/Dvd's gathering dust on a shelf?

If so, Croston Pre-school can make good use of them by trading them in for much needed cash!

Just take them along to any of the following venues:

Londis on Westhead Road, Out Lane Health Centre, Trinity & St Michael's School & Favourites on Town Road.

You can also drop them off at Pre-school which is situated in The Old School on Church Street.

The money raised will be used to provide new equipment and resources for the children at our very busy setting.

Tots Group

Tots on Tuesday and look forward to meeting new tots and adults.

Come along on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30am - 11.30 am in the Community Centre, Castle Walks. Come along and have a play and a chat.

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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).

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (Coppull)
01257 246103

Police (non-emergency)
0845 1 25 35 45

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

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

0161 228 5685

and acts of vandalism 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