



**Issue No. 35
November 2008**

How **YOUR** Council is
spending **YOUR** money.
News of Council Meetings
and events to come in
YOUR village in a
Quarterly Newsletter

The POST

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to another edition of the Litlington Parish Post. I am writing to you as the new Chair of Litlington Parish Council; our previous Chair, Cllr. Dixon, has taken a break from Parish duties and we thank him for all the time and effort he put into the Parish Council.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a recently retired midwife and have lived in Litlington for 14 years and Cambridgeshire for 22 years. I have served on Litlington Parish Council for the last 6 years.

The Parish Council would like to welcome our newest Councillor Debbie Brown, who joined in October.

The topic of Housing Associations was raised at a recent Parish Council meeting. It was felt that residents of Litlington might benefit from being able to access a balanced view of the situation before making their choice. District Cllr. Cathcart kindly offered to hold a surgery in Litlington for those residents whom it concerned.

A concern of many of South Cambridgeshire's residents is speeding in the villages. Cllr. Biles recently attended a Police Liaison meeting that centred on this topic and a report is included in this publication. Another concern Litlington Parish Council had are vehicles travelling in the wrong direction on the one-way system. Some delivery vans have been noted to be at fault. Cllr. Oliver has helped us with this concern but please do report any incidents you witness. It is generally felt that improved signage to alert drivers to the one-way system would help; however we have been informed that signs will only be replaced as and when they need to be by the Highways department. It was also felt that there are some vehicles driving

through Litlington that are an inappropriate size; satellite navigation could be responsible for this and also for some of the smaller vehicles that travel in the wrong direction on the one-way system.

The Highways department has provided posts to protect various grass verges around the village and we have benefited from some footpath resurfacing. The Highways department also has plans to explore the storm drains in the village, especially in the areas affected by flash floods in the summer.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Parish Council**

Lynda Murphy — Chair, Litlington Parish Council

Housing Association Transfer

Council tenants and others who feel that they require further information regarding the transfer of housing can contact:

Dave Kelleway, South Cambs Against Transfer (SCAT),
tel: 01223-293743; <http://www.scat.me.uk>

South Cambs District Council Information Points

Crime Prevention Information — with satellite navigation equipment becoming more popular with motorists, it's also becoming more popular with criminals. You can help prevent this crime by following these tips:

- (1) Do not leave your sat nav in the vehicle on display.
- (2) Do not leave the sat nav inside the vehicle, i.e. in the glovebox or under a seat.
- (3) If possible take the sat nav cradle out of the vehicle and if the cradle is connected by suction to the window then clean this area after use.
- (4) Register the sat nav equipment on <http://www.immobilise.com>, i.e. serial name, make model etc.
- (5) Do not leave items of value, handbags, rucksacks, briefcases etc. in your vehicle, not even the boot as thieves know items are often stored there.
- (6) It can be disadvantageous to enter your home address into a sat nav. If your car is stolen (e.g. from a motorway service station when you are on holiday) the thief can expect your house to be empty. The thief may be working with a network of criminals and your house may be burgled before you have time to return.

Traffic and Speeding

Alan Biles

A meeting was called on 22nd July 2008 in response to public concerns. It was well attended and the panel comprised senior police and others responsible for speed cameras, road safety, road policing and county highways. The panel took onboard all the traffic and speeding issues raised by members of the public and did their best to answer all questions. Emphasising no intention to play down the subject, the panel produced figures that showed 90% of road accidents were not speed related. The County Council accepted that more needs to be done in terms of signage, junction layouts and highway engineering generally. The public generally felt that speeding was antisocial behaviour and should receive a higher priority, but not at the expense of tackling crime.

On a more positive note, much interest was shown in a detector system on display and the results of its use by volunteers in local pilot schemes — even though the majority of those speeding were found to be locals/village residents. More recently, a proposed speedwatch operational plan has been drawn up and it was announced at the 21st October 2008 neighbourhood police meeting that 10 sets of free-standing ‘speed detector units’ had been ordered with delivery by the end of the year. The neighbourhood police will shortly call a meeting to assess village interest in the scheme. We will then learn more regarding training of volunteers to operate the equipment which will be on a village rotation basis, i.e. volunteers will not operate in their own village. If anyone is interested then please contact me.

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Alan Biles

The Melbourn and Bassingbourn area neighbourhood police panel meet every three months and Litlington is represented. The aims are:

(A) For the panel to give an update of their activities over the previous three months, together with details, village by village, of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) levels reported. Incidences are categorized in order to show trends and ‘hot spots’ that have required extra police vigilance/action.

(B) For the panel to receive feedback from the villages in order to assess effectiveness of police activities and to review priorities and targeting.

For the three months up to the 21st October meeting, the Bassingbourn, Litlington and Mordens areas have seen a further reduction in crime overall, particularly levels of violence and ASB suffered by the general public.

Melbourn has seen a doubling in certain areas of crime. There was general agreement that police response to feedback, and subsequent action had played a major part in reducing crime and ASB levels overall.

Vehicle and burglary offences remain low, but the police urge members of public to take common sense precautions to deter opportunist thieves especially now we have reducing daylight hours. The police remind us to report all incidences of crime/ASB either directly to the police on 0845-456 4564 (non-emergency number) and/or to a member of our neighbourhood watch team. Many felt that traffic and speeding should now be moved up the priority ladder, but of equal concern was that this may lead to reduction in police resources to continue and further their activities in tackling serious crime and ASB. The results of a speed check at locations across the neighbourhood has been published.

A “countryside watch” team of four has been set up to operate directly on country and rural crimes, i.e. farm thefts, damage, hare coursing, ASB and metal thefts. On the last, scrap dealers are now supplied with detailed lists of stolen materials and know they will be targeted if found to be receiving and/or not verifying sellers’ details. The countryside watch team operates across borders.

Dog Owners

Lynda Murphy

This is a request from the Parish Council to ask all dog owners to clear up after their dogs when they have soiled the footpath. On the whole the village footpaths are clear of any dog mess and everyone welcomes that, but it has been noted that there are certain off-road footpaths that are quite the opposite. As a courtesy to all villagers, walkers and ramblers please, if you are a dog owner, clear up after your pet. Thank you.

New Planning Regulations

Alan Pipe

Recent press coverage may have given the impression that most of the regulations that affect the building of extensions and other alterations have been removed. Please be aware that this is an over-simplification of the situation. Although less strict, there is still a framework of regulations, and as Litlington is a conservation village additional restrictions apply. Most work of this type is subject to Building Control Regulations and this has not changed.

A useful web site for more information is <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>

I should like to thank everyone who in any way contributed to the Village Fayre this year. More people helped with setting up than in previous years. The new layout, with lots of gazebos and party tents, made the event look attractive. The weather was good and the response from village people and outsiders was excellent. We are grateful to Caroline Griffiths for efficiently organising the very popular Dog Show and to the ATR Bassingbourn for providing activities. An innovation this year was the motorcycle display and competition, where the public was given the opportunity of choosing the "best motorbike in show". We are indebted to Rick Siney for arranging and sponsoring this event. The committee had worked hard in planning this day and were pleased to be told by many people that it was "the best yet".

Organisations taking part kept 80% of their takings. The remaining 20% has gone into the funds to pay the overall expenses and to have money to run a Village Fayre in 2009. The fund stands at £663.80.

The committee is planning to hold a similar event next year. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Anyone wishing to join the committee or help with the 2009 Fayre should contact Sue Jenkins (01763-852974) or David Sharp (01763-852425).



Girlguiding

girls in the lead

1st Guilden Morden Brownies

need lively ladies or men to enhance their leadership team

We meet Wednesdays 6pm to 7.30pm

Help weekly, fortnightly or even monthly

No previous guiding experience required

Contact Debbie for more information
01763-85281

e-mail: debbie-fisher@hotmail.co.uk

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

with
SANTA'S HATBAND

Conductor: David Boarder
&

ROYSTON YOUTH CHOIR

Conductor: Pamela Lambert



Christmas Celebration

with carols & arrangements for choirs & audience

Saturday 20 December at 7.30pm
Royston Parish Church

Tickets £10.00 (Concession £8, 'Still at School' £1)
ticket includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie before the concert

Litlington Parish Paths

Lynda Murphy

Enclosed with the Parish Post is the most recent copy of Litlington Parish Paths. The Parish Council felt it would be appropriate to distribute the leaflet because we have many new residents in the village who may find it interesting.

There are two additions that should be pointed out. There is a new permissive path that leaves Ashwell Street in a southerly direction and passes by the Clunch pit. It passes to the northerly side of the first line of trees and connects with an existing footpath.

There is also a new network of bridleways that leave Ashwell Street in a southerly direction just past Whitethorn Wood on the boundary of the Parish. The routes are clearly marked with maps and way markers.

Litlington Village Hall

Mrs M. Baker

Users of the hall will be pleased to know that they will be warm and comfortable for the future. We have a new boiler being installed in December. The old one has given sterling service but now needs to be replaced. Various estimates and enquiries resulted in obtaining one from the original makers of the previous one. So we hope all our efforts will be successful and people will be pleased.

We are also looking for the best solution to the disabled toilet. Our original ideas proved too costly so we are now making plans and enquiries to obtain grants for the best way forward. The committee is doing its best to resolve this important and much needed item as soon as possible.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all supporters and users of the Hall. We wish them a Happy New Year, and hope we can have a successful one.

Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network

Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) was launched on the 25th September in the Burgess Hall, St Ives. A copy of their most recent newsletter will be available to read on the Parish notice board. Alternatively it can be viewed at www.cambridgeshirelink.org.uk — log on to find out the latest news on Health and Social Care in Cambridgeshire, and take the opportunity to give your views on the services.

Bus services: 127 route — the retender has been successful and the service will therefore continue, maintaining the current timetable for the time being. With regard to the Whaddon extension the consultation results to date are favourable but this service extension is still being considered.

One-way system — I confirm that I have been in contact with the Traffic Commissioner for Cambridgeshire who I understand can provide necessary guidance to couriers, etc regarding the one-way system in the village. The Traffic Commissioner has substantial authority. I do hope this reduces the current risks.

Cambridgeshire County Council : Audit Commission report — the assessment confirms that the County Council has sickness absence of just five days per employee; one of the lowest figures in the whole country and lower than the commercial sector. Staff satisfaction levels are high and the Commission cites the strategic approach to workforce planning, recruitment and retention.

Transport Innovation Fund (congestion charge) — we have received no further information or detail from Government regarding the £500m TIF fund and, in the meantime, a local commission is being set up comprising county and district councils, Addenbrooke's, police, Stagecoach, Chamber of Commerce, Horizons and others to examine local options. With 58,000 new houses in the sub-region (Government figures) it is clearly sensible to take a long term and fully informed view. Should this TIF funding not come forward, other options for accommodating future traffic growth must be analysed and planned for at this early stage.

County Council Registration Service — it is now possible to book appointments on-line to register a birth or a death in addition to telephone booking. The link is: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/bmd>

Aviation — the County Council's response to the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) consultation has been submitted, together with a complaint to the Civil Aviation Authority regarding the refusal to include parishes in the consultation meetings. Both are very firm responses objecting to the NATS proposals. In the meantime, I too have become very aware of the sudden increase in commercial aviation over the local villages during the last months. I have therefore requested official information around the detail for this increase in commercial aviation movements

Cambridgeshire County Council Contact Centre — this has been named as the top public sector Contact Centre in the whole of the UK. It beat off competition from other local authorities such as Kent, Surrey and Liverpool. Should you need any information about services, e.g. blue badges or home to school transport subsidies, the number is 0845-045 5200.

Waste Recycling — Cambridgeshire has achieved the EU recycling target 12 years ahead of time by reaching recycling rates in excess of 50%. The Council has set its 2010 target at 60% — again way ahead of the EU target — and there is little doubt that this will be achieved. Considerable effort is also going into waste prevention and reuse schemes.

Economic Downturn and Suppliers to the County Council — it is reassuring to be able to report that 97% of invoices received from the 14,000 suppliers to the County Council are cleared and paid on the due date or the first day thereafter. The County Council is doing everything possible to support their suppliers during these difficult times.

Police Notices

The Parish receives occasional police notices from the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Bridget Fairley, Partnership Support Officer, 01954-713367, Bridget.Fairley@scambs.gov.uk and Helen Simpson, Communications Officer, 01954-713262, helen.simpson@scambs.gov.uk), South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA.

Recent notices include:

1. How to safeguard against burglaries and theft of property.
2. Autumn/Winter burglary advice.
3. Seizure of a vehicle causing harassment, alarm or distress.
4. Crime and disorder reduction plan.

These are available to read on the Parish notice board.

- Apr 2nd remembering my Mum, Emma Maling RIP — Kath
Apr 2nd for Jeff
Apr 5th in memory of May Wilson RIP
Apr 9th in memory of Frank Bailey RIP on the 10th anniversary of his death.
Apr 22nd to celebrate Paul Newman's 50th birthday — for 42 of those 50 years Paul has been ringing the bells at St Catherine's Church. He has been tower captain for many years, a role which his late father, Bill, also fulfilled for a long time.
Congratulations and many thanks for keeping the bells ringing!
- Apr 23rd St George's Day
Apr 23rd anniversary of the death of Sylvia Webb — daughter of Lou Barnes
Apr 23rd birthday of Jack Burrige formerly of Litlington
Apr 27th in memory of Donald Ross Wilson RIP who died on 27/05/08
May 1st birthday of Donald Williams RIP
May 12th anniversary of the death of Donald Williams RIP
May 28th birthday of Jeff Bonnett RIP
May 30th wedding anniversary of John Lawrence RIP and Shirley Lawrence
Jun 1st one month after his bypass surgery, Kumar Balani's family would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards and words of support.
It is now four months since the operation and Kumar's customers are all pleased to see him back in the Post Office Stores and are grateful to his wife and daughters for their excellent service during his absence
- Jun 23rd birthday of Sylvia Webb RIP, daughter of Lou Barnes
Jul 26th 80th birthday of Charlie Lawrence — congratulations and we wish you many more birthdays
- Jul 31st birthday of William John Lawrence RIP
Aug 18th in memory of Ella Ball RIP on her funeral day from her friend Lou Barnes who was unable to attend the service
- Sep 4th birthday of Derrick Jackson RIP
Oct 9th in memory of Jim Carter RIP
Oct 10th for Jeff Bonnett RIP
Oct 15th birthday of Bob Thompson RIP
Oct 16th in memory of William Tillett RIP
Oct 21st in memory of Dorothy Tillett RIP — parents of Patricia Shore
Oct 27th 100th birthday of Donald Wilson — father of Lister Wilson
Nov 2nd birthday of Bill (Jock) Thomson RIP
Nov 5th birthday of Mark Ridge
Nov 12th anonymously
Nov 15th birthday of Ray Ridge — we hope you had a Happy Birthday
Nov 19th 18th birthday of Adam Shilton — congratulations and have a lovely day!

To have the church illuminated costs only £5. Brenda Bailey (01763-853401) or Pam Sharp (01763-852425) can arrange it for you.

Your Parish Councillors

Marjorie Baker	01763-852491	Alan Pipe	01763-852885
Alan Biles	01763-852533	David Sharp	01763-852425
Debbie Brown	01763-852002	Linda Williams	01763-852809
Lynda Murphy	01763-852033		

Linda Oliver — County Councillor Bassingbourn Division — 01767-650430
email: linda.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Other Useful Numbers (all 01763- numbers unless otherwise stated)

Sally Walmesley	Clerk to the Council	852137
Sue Jenkins	Church Warden	852974
Gordon Head	Neighbourhood Watch	852934
Linda Williams	Village Hall Booking Clerk	852809
June Chaffey	Recreation Centre Booking Clerk	852151
Gwen Biles	The Chapel (Secretary)	852533
Pamela Sharp	Evergreens	852425
Rosy Taylor	Playschool	852762
Lorraine Baker	Toy Library (Secretary)	852414
Vera Swallow	Litlington Amateur Dramatics Society	222538
Vera Webster	Badminton Club (Treasurer)	241022
James Evans	Football Club (Secretary)	07834-813854
Cathy Smith	L.J.'s (7 to 10yrs. Youth Club)	853997
Jane List	L.J.'s Plus (10 to 13yrs. Youth Club)	852127
Sylvia Harris	Gardening Club	852107
Kumar Balani	Post Office / Shop	852221
Angie and Steve Watts	The Crown Public House	853859
	Bassingbourn Village College	242344
	Bassingbourn Primary School	242460
	Steeple Morden School	852474
	Royston Library	243292
	Bassingbourn Surgery	241424
	Ashwell Surgery	01462-742891
	Police, Cambridge H.Q.	01223-358966

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