



**Issue No. 43
November 2011**

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

The POST

Litlington Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

**contributions from David Sharp,
Lisa Wiltshire & Marge Baker**

What will you be doing on Monday 4 June 2012?

We hope that you will all participate in the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There is already a committee working to ensure that Litlington has activities for all ages.

This is just a reminder for everyone to know they are invited to all the entertainment for all ages. We hope that many of you will decorate your homes for the weekend and that you will join the procession from The Stret, past the shop and to the Recreation Ground. You are welcome to decorate floats, cars, bicycles, anything you can think of and even wheelbarrows. People in fancy dress can process and, on arrival at the Rec Centre, they can be judged according to age.

Bouncy castles/inflatables for all ages have been booked. There will be races for children with certificates and prizes. Tea will be provided for our Senior Citizens and there will be a tea party for the children. "Chariot racing" will be organised. A bar and bar-b-que will be on site. We hope to present each Litlington child under 16 years old with a commemorative mug. In the evening there will be entertainment.

All we need is your cooperation and involvement. There is lots to do and we would welcome any offers to help in any way. Everyone is welcome to put forward their ideas and comments. **YOUR** help and suggestions would be appreciated. Further details from David Sharp on 852425.

Letter from the Chair

Alan Pipe

Since our last edition I have been re-elected Chairman and the summer has passed, although there is always plenty of Parish Council activity. We understand that the survey to establish social need housing will shortly be distributed and I urge you to complete and return it.

New play equipment was installed at the beginning of June and appears to have been well received. As part of the improvement we created a mound for the young children to climb and run on. This is now grass seeded and needs to be left for the grass to become established. Please ask your children to stay off it until the spring.

A big thank you to the organisers of the Royal Wedding party, which was a great success. Please note that a committee is organising a Diamond Jubilee celebration for 4 June 2012 and that there will be no Village Fair next year. Please become involved: see the item later in The Post.

The maintenance of our street lighting, which you pay for in the precept, has been transferred to a new company in common with the rest of the county, so we may hope for a better service.

St Catherine's Church Floodlights

Pam Sharp

- Jul 31st Birthday of John Lawrence RIP
- Sep 4th Birthday of Derrick Jackson RIP
- Sep 11th To celebrate the wedding anniversary of Daphne and Vic Chaffey (married on 11 September 1954). Congratulations.
- Sep 23rd To celebrate the Golden wedding Anniversary of Cyril and Sylvia Harris. Congratulations and best wishes from everyone at St Catherine's Church. We wish you many more healthy, happy years together.

If you enjoy seeing the Parish Church floodlit and wish to commemorate an event or remember a person, please contact Pam Sharp (852425). The price is £5.

Receiving the Litlington Post by E-Mail

Nick Goldman

If you would like to receive the Litlington Post by e-mail, please send a message to Nick Goldman at goldman.nick@gmail.com. You will still get a printed copy.

LITLINGTON TOWNLANDS CHARITY (CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION 2011)

From 2011 the Christmas Distribution made by Litlington Townlands Charity will need to be applied for. The distribution is one payment per household to persons aged over 65 years.

Applicants need to have resided in Litlington since September 2011, born in 1944 or earlier, and NOT previously been a recipient of the annual distribution.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING OR BY E-MAIL TO THE PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

**SALLY WALMESLEY
REDWOOD LODGE
SOUTH STREET
LITLINGTON**

(E-MAIL sally.walmesley@btinternet.com)

OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUSTEES

**DAVID SHARP
DARWIN FARM
BASSINGBOURN
LITLINGTON**

(E-MAIL davidsharp852@btinternet.com)

ON OR BEFORE 30th NOVEMBER 2011

THANK YOU

Overhanging Bushes

Alan Pipe

We would like to remind parishioners that it is their responsibility to maintain bushes and trees growing on their property to prevent them from overhanging paths, signs and the highway.

Play Area

Alan Pipe

We believe that the alterations made to the children's play area have been a significant improvement. Interest has been expressed in further stages of development, the principal areas being additional seating and an additional litter bin. Our annual safety inspection recommended safety matting around the large multi play/slide and if the large swings are to be retained, they will need a significant upgrade. The items mentioned amount to a cost of a little over £6,000.

Following the recent expenditure of £23,500, the Parish Council do not see an early opportunity to make funds available for this work. We wonder therefore if interested parents can get together to undertake some fund raising to enable this to progress.

There is also an opportunity for a bench seat to be purchased and named as a lasting reminder of a relative or friend; alternatively a company could sponsor one.

Neighbourhood Watch

Lynda Murphy

There have been a number of house burglaries reported within South Cambridgeshire, close to this area, over the past few months. They have all been forced entries in the day time, presumably whilst the occupants have been at work. Jewellery, cash, house keys, car keys and a high value car were taken.

Please do watch out for anything suspicious and report to the police if you have any concerns.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP)

Alan Pipe

Litlington has been invited to enter into a joint partnership with Guilden Morden and other local villages, to set up a Sustainable Energy Group. The aim of the scheme is to help residents reduce energy bills, tackle climate change and build a more sustainable future. If you are interested in becoming involved in this venture please contact either the Parish Council Chairman, Alan Pipe, or the Parish Clerk.

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School Report — Autumn Term 2011

Debbie Morris

Another academic year has begun at school and we are delighted to welcome the new Reception children and their families into our school community. We are also happy to welcome the new children who have joined us in some of the older classes. We hope that you will all be very happy at School and quickly feel part of a welcoming and friendly community.

We have wasted no time this term settling into our new and exciting whole school World War Two topic. Highlights have included a World War Two dressing up day when the school was overrun with evacuees and ARP wardens! Also, we watched an informative and entertaining performance entitled 'During the War' by a visiting theatre company. It was easy to see how much the children valued this experience as you could have heard a pin drop in the hall during the production. We were lucky enough to be visited by some members of the local community who shared their first-hand experiences of the war with the children. Thank you once again for giving your time so freely.

In early October the children and many parents and carers visited the Church to celebrate Harvest Festival. It was good to have the opportunity to come together and give thanks for such an abundance of rich produce.

On Saturday 5 November the PTA will hold its annual Bonfire Night and Firework Display. Tickets are available from Steeple Morden and Litlington Post Offices and the school. The fireworks are always beautiful, and there will be hot soup and good company available! The money raised by this event will be put towards the continued redevelopment of the teaching kitchen at School. If anyone has a spare hour or two the PTA are always looking for new members to spread the workload for the various events that it organises. Please contact pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk for more information if you are able to help.

For your information our chosen charities for this year are Great Ormond Street Hospital, Red Cross Japan and Rebecca's Rainbow (a children's heart charity). Throughout the year our school community will work hard to raise as much money as possible for these worthy causes.

For lots more information about our school please visit our website: <http://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk>.

Litlington Pre-school (LPS) is a local group for local toddlers and provides children from the age of 2 years up to school age with as many exciting and varied activities as possible whilst still following the Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines. These include an excellent free-flow outside garden area where the children help grow vegetables and flowers. Healthy snacks such as fruit, toast and bread and butter are provided for the children. We welcome local children and their families including children with special educational needs.

We support our local community and invite young and old to our many events including termly coffee mornings. Other local organisations are supported by holding stalls and displays at local events, for example the Litlington Flower Festival and the Rhythm of the World Festival in Hitchin. We also loan our equipment to local individuals and groups for children's parties or recently at the Royston Secrets Day.

LPS recycles wherever possible including plastic bottles/boxes and foil and tries to teach the children to be environmentally friendly by collecting our snack time left-overs and teabags for compost or chicken feed.

Mordens And Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme Debbie Brown**VACANCY FOR WARDEN**

Due to the retirement of the present incumbent we are inviting applications for the position of Warden. Applicants must be able to demonstrate experience of caring for the elderly.

The Warden will be required to cover the three villages of Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden and Litlington. The position is permanent and part time — 10 hours per week.

The duties involve contacting each of our members (currently 21) on a daily basis by telephone and on a weekly basis by personal visit. The daily phone call is to ensure our members are safe and not in need of any immediate assistance and the weekly visit is to help members with any issues that are troubling them and to liaise with government agencies where appropriate.

The ideal candidate will have a friendly disposition and have a genuine interest in caring for our elderly members who in many cases are disabled, housebound and living on their own.

In the first instance please apply in writing, enclosing your CV, to: Mrs Debbie Brown, Glebe House, South Street, Litlington SG8 0QR

Non-emergency number for police has changed. This is now 101. The old number 0345-456 4564 will continue for another 12 months. 101 is a national number and it will link in to the local police contact centre.

Policing and local crime. Comparative figures demonstrate that crime is low again for this three month period. This underpins the overall indication that this area is one of the safest areas in the country in which to live.

BT and Broadband. BT have apologised that the works have not commenced as promised. They have advised that the civil engineering company who are responsible for doing the streetworks are currently surveying the locations for the street cabinets off the Royston exchange during w/c 17 October. They plan to start local works on the new street cabinets w/c 24 November, which in turn means that BT would be releasing cabinets to the communications providers to start taking end user orders in late January. NB: the District Council has to agree location of cabinets.

Ancestry. Ancestry Library Edition is a leading online genealogy resource, with more than 5 billion names in over 4000 collections. It allows people to search census returns, birth, marriage and death records, passenger lists, and much, much more. Access to Ancestry Library Edition is available free of charge in Cambridgeshire Libraries.

A free workshop will take place at Central Library, Cambridge, on Thursday 15 December at 2:30 pm and will last one hour. The session is open to anyone aged 16+ and is free of charge. To reserve a place, e-mail Your.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, call 0345-045 5225, or ask any member of staff in Central Library.

This workshop has been made possible by the generous support of volunteers from ProQuest, an information firm central to serious research and the distributor of Ancestry Library Edition.

Rigid plastics recycling. Cambridgeshire residents can now recycle rigid plastics as part of a new recycling scheme being launched across all nine Household Recycling Centres. An earlier trial netted nearly 27 tonnes of rigid plastics in three months. All the rigid plastics collected were sent for recycling to a local company.

Included are corrugated pipe, buckets, dustbins, water butts, garden furniture, plant pots and non-electrical children's toys. However, materials such as plastic bottles, yoghurt pots, ice cream tubs, PVC pipes and UPVC door and window frames are not suitable.

Trading Standards. Officers are reminding traders and customers about the provision of the 7 days cancellation period when customers enter into contracts in their homes. This law was brought in to overcome issues such as intimidation through high pressure selling and allowing customers more time to consider their purchases.

For example, Trading Standards has seen an increase in queries from residents about 'cold callers' selling energy saving schemes, particularly loft insulation and solar energy. Below they offer some advice:

"Obtain three quotes to ensure the price and projected savings are competitive and realistic. Arrange a technical survey, rather than a sales visit, so the quote is accurate, and ensure all quotes are in writing, detailing what's included. Once you've chosen your installer, read the contract carefully and ensure their claims about savings and maintenance costs are included before signing so that you have evidence of what you were told"

Solar Energy — before you start, it's worth taking a look at the information provided by the Energy Saving Trust at <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk> or speaking to an advisor on 0800-512012. For supplier/installer information, the Microgeneration Certification Scheme can provide a list of members online or by calling 0207-090 1082

The Trading Standards service is running a countywide educational campaign to ensure all traders in the county know what is required of them, and that consumers don't suffer because of traders' lack of awareness.

Finally, Trading Standards officers recently seized thousands of pieces of fake designer clothing, fashion and music items in raids on fraudulent traders operating in Cambridgeshire. The items, had they been genuine, would have been worth around £50,000.

127 bus and local transport. Contrary to local press reports, I confirm again that the 127 bus continues and the route extended. Route information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/route127>.

The new community transport scheme called Cambridgeshire Future Transport continues to be developed. This includes the creation of micro-franchise businesses to meet local transport needs and create employment. The County Council is working with the NHS using combined funding of £34m — their combined annual spend on transport in Cambridgeshire.

Journey numbers for the Guided Busway were 430,000 for the first two months of operation. The bus operators continue to add more buses to cope with the demand. It has proven to be such a success that further development of the scheme is now being encouraged.

Stepping Stones Children's Centre in Brook Road, Bassingbourn has been officially opened. It has an activity room, a health room and outdoor play area for children. The other part of the building provides new facilities for the Pre-school, breakfast club and out of school club. Children's Centres offer easier access for families of children under five to health, family support and drop-in activities, along with information about local childcare, early education, specialist services for under 5's and help with finding jobs and training.

E-books update. Currently publishers are uncertain of their approach to the lending of e-books by public libraries. However, Cambridgeshire County Council has 217 titles available for download — but not to a Kindle. Access is via the website and using your Library card.

Reporting potholes and requests for other highways repairs. Below is the weblink for the reporting of potholes. There is a map where the precise location of the problem can be marked up. An e-mail receipt for your report is provided and it is possible for you to track progress. The link is within the Highways Reporting section of the County Council website. It is indeed an excellent system:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm>

Alternatively, phone the Highways Team on 0345-045 5212.

Information on local services and events. Just enter your postcode on the County Council website. The 'My Cambridgeshire' mapping facility has been launched on the County Council's website to make it easier for residents to find a range of local information and services, near their homes. Residents can click on <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk> and put in their address or postcode to find out where their local County Council-run services are and how to contact them and also information on local services provided by partner agencies such as the NHS and District and City Councils. Many local events are also listed.

Social media. You can follow the County Council on:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireCC>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/CambsCC>

Energy Meter Loan Scheme

Cambs County Council

Got better things to spend your money on than electricity bills? Borrow an energy meter from any Cambridgeshire library free of charge and find out how you could cut your electricity bills by as much as 15%.

The meters are easy and safe to use and show how much electricity is being used in your home at any one time. Using a meter can help you see just how much energy is used, for example, by lights in empty rooms, appliances on stand-by or boiling a full kettle. Armed with this information, studies show that households can reduce their bills by 5–15% by making small changes to use less electricity. Ask to borrow a meter at your local library today and start planning what to do with your savings!

Contact details: Fiona Riggall, Environment and Climate Change Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council: 01223-715673.

Speed Limit Stickers

Parish Clerk

You have probably seen speed limit stickers displayed on some refuse bins in Arrington and Wimpole, reminding motorists of the speed limit in a village. South Cambridgeshire District Council has now issued Litlington with some 30mph stickers for display on our bins. It is suggested that two signs per bin are issued to around five houses each side of the road at the entrances to the village (Royston Road, Bassingbourn Road, Steeple Morden Road).

If your property is in these areas, and you would like stickers for your bins, please contact the Parish Clerk, Sally Walmesley.

Subsidised Bus Service Consultation Cambs County Council

Cambridgeshire County Council wants to hear your views on changes and reductions being proposed to bus services which are supported by financial contributions from Council funds. This will help us decide on how we implement the financial savings and, where possible, find local solutions. A questionnaire has been compiled to gather your views, which can be accessed at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview>. You can also find the full consultation letter there.

If you do not wish to complete this questionnaire online, paper copies are available by contacting us using one of the following means:

By e-mail: bus.tenders@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

By telephone: 0345-045 0675

By post: Cambridgeshire County Council, CC1301, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

The closing date for responses to the questionnaire is 16:00 on Friday 9 December 2011.

If you represent a group of people we would be grateful if you could distribute the above details to your members.

Stolen Goods?

Hertfordshire Constabulary

Officers from Hertfordshire stopped a vehicle on the M40 between Oxford and London on 18 May 2011. A large amount of Asian jewellery was seized from the vehicle. Further warrants were carried out in London and Oxfordshire where further property was located. A 30 year old man from Oxfordshire has since been charged with conspiracy and proceeds of crime offences and is currently going through the court system.

Around 6,000 items were seized in total including jewellery, antiques and electrical items. It is believed all of these have come from burglaries which could have taken place anywhere in the country.

One of the items is a gold coin in a case marked LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL. The casing and coin are marked with Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee 2002. It is believed that this item would have been stolen in a burglary some time after 2007 (approx.).

If you have been a victim of a burglary and have suffered the loss of this item, please e-mail op.pop@herts.pnn.police.uk with your contact details and a Hertfordshire officer will be in touch.

Calling All Dog Owners

Barbara Edney

As dog walkers we have rights. We have the right to walk our dogs on all roads, pavements and grass verges; public places including village greens (although NOT the Recreation Centre Playing Fields); all amenity grass areas which are open to the public; and all designated footpaths and byways, woodlands and rural common land. Some footpaths are however privately owned. A map of public footpaths is available from the Parish Clerk.

However, with these rights come responsibilities. We are required by law to clean up after our dogs. Failure to do this could result in prosecution and a fine of a maximum of £1,000! There are plenty of dog waste bins around the area or mess can be disposed of in our own household black bins.

We are also asked to keep our dogs to the footpaths and not allow them to run riot on the fields, damaging crops. There are some very narrow footpaths in the area and our dogs should be kept under close control to prevent them running around on the fields. We may think we live in the country but actually we live in the middle of a food factory and damaged crops cost the farmers money.

The majority of dog walkers are responsible and respect other people's right to enjoy walks in and around the village cleanly and safely. But, of course, there is always a minority who give us all a bad name. If you experience any incident concerning dogs which is intimidating, dangerous or inconsiderate, or you witness an infringement of the law with regard to dog mess, you are invited to contact Barbara Edney, as Parish Council Dog Warden, on 853566 in the first instance, giving details of time, date and precise location, the type of dog, and (if possible) the name and address of the person in charge of the dog. This will enable us to make our lovely village of Litlington and its environs a cleaner, safer, healthier and more pleasant place in which to live.

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
Steve Claydon	01763-853760	Lisa Wiltshire	01763-852551
Barbara Edney	01763-853566		

County Councillor, Bassingbourn Division

Linda Oliver	01767-650430	07774-228852
e-mail:	linda.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	

Other Useful Numbers (01763- numbers unless otherwise stated)

Sally Walmesley	Clerk to the Council	852137
Sue Jenkins	Church Warden	852974
Lynda Murphy	Neighbourhood Watch	852033
Linda Williams	Village Hall Booking Clerk	852809
Tina Claydon	Recreation Centre Booking Clerk	853760
Gwen Biles	The Chapel (Secretary)	852533
Pamela Sharp	Evergreens	852425
Pat Bass	Evergreens	852874
Rosy Taylor	Pre-school	852762
Lorraine Baker	Toy Library (Secretary)	852414
Vera Webster	Badminton Club (Treasurer)	241022
James Evans	Football Club (Secretary)	07834-813854
Graham Parrish	Bowls Club	853147
Cathy Smith	L.J.'s (7 to 10yrs. Youth Club)	853997
Jonathan Burgess	L.J.'s Plus (10 to 13yrs. Youth Club)	853365
Janet Ferris	Gardening Club	852401
Kumar Balani	Post Office / Shop	852221
	The Crown Public House	853859
	Bassingbourn Village College	242344
	Bassingbourn Primary School	242460
	Steeple Morden School	852474
	Royston Library	243292
	Bassingbourn Surgery	0844-4994778
	Ashwell Surgery	0844-4994777
	Police, Cambridge H.Q.	01223-358966