



**Issue No. 38
December 2009**

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

Lynda Murphy

Litlington has certainly been in the news recently: the Time Team from Channel 4 have put us in the limelight after confirming the location of the fine Roman Villa in our midst. Thanks should go to the May family at Manor Farm for inviting them and giving us all the opportunity to look at the past. We had a splendid day and I think everyone was equally excited to view the unearthed remains.

Our other claim to fame is not quite so exciting but it is having an impact on our quality of life in the village. You may have read in the local media recently about the aircraft noise over the village. Please look for the article about it in this newsletter and act on it for the benefit of everyone.

Recently the Parish Council made five representations to the District Council about the proposed site for a gypsy/traveller camp at Bassingbourn. The Parish Council is of the opinion that the proposed site is inappropriate. It fails to meet the Government guidelines for a traveller site on many aspects, such as access to transport, local employment, schools and shops. Many local people currently use the proposed area for recreational purposes and this would be denied to them if a camp were to be constructed, which would be a loss of a valuable amenity to the villages.

The Parish Council is looking into re-vamping the current children's play-area. Some of the equipment is getting rather old and it is in need of refurbishing.

**The Parish Council would like to wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

When it was first announced there were some proposed changes to over-flying of commercial jets in this area, the Parish Council looked on-line at the proposed changes. Although Parish Councils were not going to be part of the consultation process, we felt it would be in the interests of the village to respond if necessary.

The documents showed that Litlington would not be affected by the proposed changes, but Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden would. However, as many residents will be aware, Litlington has seen an increase in over-flying of commercial aircraft in recent months without explanation or consultation from the National Air Traffic Services (NATS).

Not only has there been an increase in volume, but the height at which the aircraft fly is considerably lower and most of the traffic is banking round in a turn. This increases the whine from the engines and can clearly be heard even indoors. The aircraft move in a narrow corridor over the village and have been noted to be as frequent as every two-three minutes at times.

Cllr Linda Oliver has been very involved in trying to find out why we are experiencing these changes as they are not mentioned in the proposals and there has not been any kind of consultation. A working party of Councillors from Litlington and the surrounding villages has been formed, together with members of the District, County and Environmental Health, to work on this problem. The group is having to request flight pattern records over the previous two years through the Freedom of Information Act. NATS have thus far refused to co-operate in releasing the information that would remove all 'mystery' from the complaint. If there is to be maximum impact on this issue please help by airing your grievances to about the noise to:

Andrew Lansley MP:
Constituency Office
153 St Neots Rd
Hardwick
Cambridgeshire
CB23 7QJ
tel: 01954-212707
lansleya@parliament.uk

Cambridge/Royston Evening and
Weekly News Editor:
Nigel Brookes
tel: 01223-434274
Nigel.brookes@cambridge-news.co.uk
3 Melbourn Street, Royston, SG8 7BP
tel: 01763-249144
editorial@roystonweeklynews.co.uk

Royston Crow:
tel: 01763-244977
news@royston-crow.co.uk

Environmental Health:
cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

Remember we are in a recession at the moment; imagine what the level of noise will be like when air travel increases again.

Litlington Website (www.litlington.org.uk)

Nick Jones

The first draft of the new village website is now online. For the time being, the previous version of the site remains in place and the new site is accessed via a link from the homepage. By Christmas 2009, the old site will be completely removed. Please visit the new site (www.litlington.org.uk) and provide any feedback/suggestions to Cllr Jones by phone (01763-852037) or e-mail (nickbrynjones@hotmail.com). Cllr Jones is keen to develop the site so that it may be relevant for the local community — if there's something missing that you think would be useful, please get in touch.

Receiving the Litlington Post by E-Mail

Nick Goldman

If you would like to receive the Litlington Post by e-mail in future, please send a message to Nick Goldman at goldman.nick@gmail.com. Don't worry, you will still get a printed copy for the foreseeable future!

Litlington Inclosure Map

Lynda Murphy

We now have an electronic copy of the 1830 Inclosure Map that can be reproduced as a print. If you are interested in purchasing a print we would like to know. The approximate price of a reproduction would be:

- £20 for a matt finish
- £40 for a gloss finish

The finished print would be an A0 size. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01763-852137 if you are interested.

The Mordens and Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme

Registered Charity No. 1127471

would like to say a big thank-you to The Morden Players for making the Scheme the recipient of a generous donation after its recent production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

A kind invitation from The Players lead to several members of the Scheme enjoying the dress rehearsal of the play at the Steeple Morden Village Hall.

Jane Davis, Chairman

Dog Owners

Lynda Murphy

Frequently the Parish Council receives complaints about dog fouling both within the village and on the surrounding footpaths. We ask you to please be a responsible dog owner and clear up after your pet; the problem of dog faeces is a health hazard in some parts of the village.

If we are to tackle this problem more vigorously the District Council need evidence, ideally photographic, of the owner and pet, and two witnesses for the Parish Council to report to District for them to take matters further. The fine for dog fouling within the 30mph limit can be £1,000 if the owner is prosecuted.

An information leaflet was circulated to all homes with the last Newsletter; if you would like further information please contact our Parish Clerk.

Dogs

David Sharp

As the farmer who farms the land alongside the footpath from Cockhall Lane to the Ashwell Stret, I politely request ALL dog walkers to pick up faeces from their dogs. It is extremely unpleasant for other people, particularly children, using the path to walk in dog excrement and for those of us working the land to step down from a tractor onto it and pick it up on our tractor tyres. Just a little act of clearing up after your dog makes a safer, more pleasant walk for everyone. May I remind people that dogs should be kept under control which means "at heel or on a lead" and NOT roaming the fields.

As a family we have two private tracks which we are happy for everyone to walk. One is from the end of Cockhall Lane to the Stret and the other from Chapel Close towards Abington Pigotts. All we ask in return is that dog excrement is picked up and that the dogs are kept under control and do not stray onto the fields.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

Nick Jones

Over recent years, in order to provide local youngsters with improved recreational facilities, the Parish Council has made a number of attempts to secure funding for a multi-use games area. As part of this process, local villagers have been asked on a number of occasions to comment on the nature of the facilities they would like to see introduced. A recent review of the successes and failures of the Council's funding applications has highlighted that better evidence of the demand for further recreational facilities is required. With this in mind, Cllr Jones is pursuing what is hoped to be a final 'consultation' with local villagers. Shortly, every household will be asked for their thoughts on a range of recreational facilities, to be located next to the existing village play area. This survey, however, will ask for more information about those that it is intended would use the facilities (primarily youngsters in Litlington). Given the current economic climate it is anticipated that securing funding will be harder than ever over the coming months, so your full and timely response to the survey would be very much appreciated. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Cllr Jones on 01763-852037 or e-mail nickbrynjones@hotmail.com.

The Play Mound

Lynda Murphy

This is a notice for all the parents of youngsters who are using the play mound on the Recreation Ground. The Mound is proving as popular as ever, which is good news, but we need to be careful that activity on the site doesn't spread too far. Over the half term holiday some new ramps were created on the sports field side of the mound and near the old large swings. The Parish Council has had to flatten those ramps because we wish to contain the building within the area it currently is. It makes for easy grass cutting on the field in the summer if the area does not extend any further. We will be marking the grass in due course to indicate a line over which the ramps should not extend. Please make sure your child/children know about this. Many thanks.

**Wanted: Singers and Sponsors
for Spring 2010
Verdi's Requiem Concert**

Royston Choral Society and Bishop's Stortford Choral Society are looking forward to an exciting production of Verdi's Requiem in Thaxted on 15th May 2010. We are expecting to sing to an audience of 400, and are raising a choir and orchestra to fit the occasion.

We would like to give a unique opportunity to local singers to join us for two terms to rehearse and perform the concert. We are particularly interested in people who have previously sung in choirs, and have performed Verdi's Requiem and/or are confident and committed to learning it with us.

We are also looking for help with fund-raising for the event, and so are looking for organisations who would either like to place an advertisement in the concert programme or sponsor some aspect of the arrangements.

Please contact Elisabeth Spain (Publicity Officer: ecspain@btinternet.com) or David Boarder (Conductor: 07876-444701) if you are interested in singing or sponsoring this exciting event.

For more information see www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk.

**Join Royston Choral Society
for some festive singing**

The Royston Choral Society invites you to join them for some festive singing on Saturday 19th December at 7:30 pm in St John's Parish Church, Royston.

The programme will feature Vaughan Williams' Fantasia and Handel's Halleluja Chorus (in support of Children in Need). There will also be David Boarder's creative assortment of original and traditional carols for the audience to participate in, as well as mince pies and mulled wine.

Tickets will be available from Royston Library, choir members and at the door, priced £10 (£8 concessions; £1 'still at school').

For further information please contact Elisabeth Spain (Publicity Officer: ecspain@btinternet.com) or David Boarder (Conductor: david.boarder@virgin.net) or visit our website at www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk.

Townlands Charity

David Sharp

The trustees of this charity make an annual disbursement to households with one or more residents of 65 years of age and over. It is always difficult to ascertain people in this age group! If you are 65 or over and have not received a small monetary gift from the Townlands Charity in the past, please contact Sally Walmsley (01763-852137) or David Sharp (01763-852425).

Overgrown Trees

Lynda Murphy

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that during the summer months some of our road signs are partially or totally obscured by vegetation from gardens. Although the growing season is over, please can those of us who have village signs near our garden boundaries ensure that any shrubs or overgrowing trees are adequately pruned.

The Parish Council would also like to request that where trees and shrubs overhang the pavements, they are cut back to prevent obstruction of pedestrians.

St Catherine's Church Floodlights

Pam Sharp

Jun 12 th	In memory of Mrs Jenner RIP to recollect her death on 12th June 1984 — 25 years ago
Jun 23 rd	In memory of Sylvia Webb RIP (daughter of Lou Barnes) on her birthday
Jul 19 th	Ruby wedding anniversary of Michael and Hilary Sharp
Jul 31 st	Birthday of John Lawrence RIP
Aug 10 th	To celebrate the marriage of Keith and Laura Light — we wish them good health and happiness always
Sep 4 th	Birthday of Derek Jackson RIP
Oct 9 th	In memory of Jim Carter RIP
Oct 15 th	Birthday of Bob Thompson RIP
Oct 16 th	Birthday of William Tillett RIP, father of Patricia Shore
Oct 21 st	Birthday of Dorothy Tillett RIP, mother of Patricia Shore
Oct 25 th	To celebrate the first birthday of Henry and Reuben Knox, twin grandsons of Helen Hastings, who were baptised in St Catherine's Church on a warm, sunny Sunday in the summer
Nov 2 nd	Birthday of William Thomson RIP
Nov 3 rd	Anonymously and also to celebrate the birthday of Lou Barnes — best wishes from all at St Catherine's
Nov 11 th	Armistice Day

If you would like the lights switched on, please contact Brenda Bailey (01763-853401) or Pam Sharp (01763-852425). The cost is £5.

Your Parish Councillors

Marjorie Baker	01763-852491	Lynda Murphy	01763-852033
Alan Biles	01763-852533	Alan Pipe	01763-852885
Debbie Brown	01763-852002	David Sharp	01763-852425
Steve Claydon	01763-853760	Linda Williams	01763-852809
Nick Jones	01763-852037		

Linda Oliver — County Councillor Bassingbourn Division — 01767-650430
email: 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
Gordon Head	Neighbourhood Watch	852934
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	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
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	241424
	Ashwell Surgery	01462-742891
	Police, Cambridge H.Q.	01223-358966