



Issue No. 39
April 2010

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

The Parish Council has recently set the precept for the coming year and has decided that the rate should remain the same as the previous 12 months. Although there will be increases in outgoings from the Parish funds, the reserves are robust enough to maintain the precept at the current rate for this year.

In February the Parish Council received a letter of resignation from Mr Head, the leader of the Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Head was one of the founder members of the scheme in this village when it started in 1996. He has put a lot of time and effort into the scheme over the years and has led a very successful team of volunteers. We would like to say thank you for all the help he has given the village.

Village Survey — Recently the Parish Council has delivered and collected (where possible) a survey to find out your views on recreational facilities for youngsters in the village. If you have not yet returned your form, please do: your views are important. There are return addresses on the back of the form and there will be a box in the Post Office for a period of time.

For further information on most topics, please look at the village website at www.litlington.org.uk

Litlington Village Hall

Marjorie Baker

As Secretary of the Village Hall Committee I have been asked to write about the hall. We recently held our Annual General Meeting. This was advertised and is therefore open to the public. We were disappointed that only three attended.

The hall is running very well. We have regular users and various other events. The committee works hard to ensure that all goes well. It is a very responsible and demanding job which we are pleased to do for all to enjoy our lovely modern hall. We would be pleased to see an increase in the bookings to help keep it going. Our Bookings Secretary is Mrs L Williams (tel. 01763-852809) for any enquiries. Thank you for your support.

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!

Royston Choral Society Verdi's Requiem

You may already have seen or heard something about this concert from coverage in the local media. Royston Choral Society is delighted to be performing Verdi's Requiem in Thaxted on Saturday 15th May at 7:30pm, with Bishop Stortford's Choral Society and the Hertford Symphony Orchestra. Ticket prices will be £12 and £10 for concessions. We are also arranging transport for those who would like to make use of it — more details will be available shortly.

Tickets will be available from Royston Library, choir members and at the door.

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

LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING ON**

**THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 2010
7.30pm**

**LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
CHAIRMAN – MRS LYNDA MURPHY**

**Please come along and hear what the Parish Council have
done over the past 12 months**

AGENDA

Apologies for Absence
Chairman's Welcome & Report
Minutes of 2009 Annual Parish Meeting
Matters Arising from Minutes
Financial Report 2009/2010
Townlands Charity Financial Statement
Reports — Steeple Morden Primary School
Bassingbourn Village College
Litlington Pre-School
Village Hall
Neighbourhood Watch
Mobile Warden Scheme
Evergreens (Over 60s)
Village Fayre Committee
Recreation Centre
Village Questionnaire
Dog Fouling
Other Business
Date of Parish Council AGM

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AN
OPINION ON VILLAGE AFFAIRS**

Wildlife in Litlington: Royston Road Verges

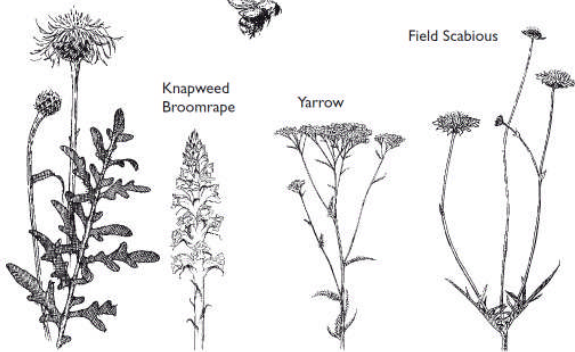
Gwen Biles & Sarah Wroot

You may have noticed the marker posts in the verge of Royston Road as you drive south to the A505 and Royston. These markers indicate that the verge is formally registered as a Protected Road Verge (PRV) because of its importance to wildlife. The wildflowers that bloom in the grasses through Spring and Summer are becoming rare in the countryside, and they also provide nectar for bumblebees, butterflies and other insects that are also under threat. Later in the Autumn and Winter, birds feed on the flower seeds while over-wintering insects shelter in the grasses.

Protected Road Verges must be managed carefully to maintain and improve their wildlife interest. Other than the visibility splays, the Royston Road verges should be cut twice each year, once in the Spring to clear away old growth and allow the Spring flowers to see the sun, and again in late Autumn after the flowers and grasses have set seed. At other times of the year the plants are left to grow and flower naturally, creating a long strip of colour alive with wildlife in the arable landscape of the parish.

The snowdrops, crocuses and other bulbs that splash bright colours in early spring were probably planted, or grow where rubbish was dumped in the past — unlike the cowslips, they are not normally found in this area. As the season progresses, cow parsley is followed by hogweed, both with flat umbels of tiny white flowers rising high above the grasses. Deep purple

Greater Knapweed



knapweed and lilac field scabious glow in the Summer sun while the massed tiny bright yellow flowers of lady's bedstraw. Other flowers are harder to spot among the grasses, but meadow cranesbill, wild liquorice, goatsbeard, and knapweed broomrape, an unusual semi-parasitic plant, all grow here.

More information about the Protected Road Verge Scheme is available on the Cambridgeshire County Council website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk). If you have specific questions about the Royston Road Verge, as the Royston Road Verge Wardens, we will do our best to help.

Village Fayre

David Sharp

The date for this year's Village Fayre is Saturday, July 10th. Bassingbourn Band and BIL, our village group, have been booked. There will be teas, a bar, stalls, sideshows, archery, races for children, a dog show and ferret racing plus much more. If any village organisation has not already asked for space for a stall or activity, please ring Sue Jenkins (01763-852974) or David Sharp (01763-852425). The profit share is 80% to the organisation and 20% to the Fayre Committee for running the event. The Committee comprises only a few people and is therefore asking for help on the day to set up the numerous party tents, gazebos etc. Help to take down tents and return equipment to the Village Hall would also be appreciated. If you have any ideas for the Fayre or could help in any way, please contact Sue or me. Thank you.

Neighbourhood Watch

Richard Webb

Gordon Head has recently retired as Warden of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, due mainly to ill health. Our appreciation and grateful thanks are duly extended to Gordon for all his hard work over the past few years.

We are therefore looking for someone to take over Gordon's role. We currently have a number of co-ordinators covering designated areas but if anyone would be interested in becoming a co-ordinator or taking over the position of Warden, please contact either Lynda Murphy (01763-852033) or Richard Webb (01763-852770).

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS — MAY 2010

Election of a new Parish Council will be taking place on the 6th May 2010, or on the 27th May 2010 if a General Election is called on the 6th.

Nominations will close at 12 noon on Thursday 8th April 2010.

If you are interested in the village and would like to get involved with representing the views of parishioners, please consider standing as a Parish Councillor. Meetings take place on the evening of the second Tuesday of the month, with occasional meetings in between, in addition to the ongoing support of parish activities.

Please contact Sally Walmesley, the Clerk to Litlington Parish Council (e-mail clerk@litlington.org.uk) for further details or an election pack.

St Catherine's Church Floodlights

Pam Sharp

- Nov 2nd Birthday of William Thomson RIP
Nov 3rd Anonymously
Nov 3rd To celebrate the birthday of Lou Barnes, long time resident of Litlington now living at Moorlands Court, Melbourn
Nov 22nd In memory of my Mum, Lisenna Carter RIP, and Rudy RIP suddenly taken on 1st September 2009, love Sonia
Nov 27th In memory of Peter Shore RIP who died in 1994
Dec 5th Birthday of Mrs V "Pop" Carter RIP
Dec 8th Birthday of Jean Watts, daughter of Lou Barnes
Dec 11th In loving memory of my Mum, Lisenna Carter RIP, on the anniversary of her funeral, love Sonia
Dec 15th Anniversary of the death of Dudley Unsworth RIP
Dec 24th In memory of our neighbour, Lisenna Carter RIP, from Peter and Marjory Baker and family
Dec 25th To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ
Dec 31st, Jan 1st To celebrate the New Year
Jan 5th Birthday of Hilda Williams
Jan 8th In memory of Peter Case RIP
Jan 11th To celebrate the 80th birthday of Sam Ferris
Jan 11th In memory of Mrs Emma Bird RIP on her birthday
Jan 12th In memory of Brian Reid RIP
Jan 31st Anniversary of the death of Bill Newman RIP
Feb 15th Birthday of Frank Bailey RIP
Feb 15th Birthday of Fred Barnes RIP

If you enjoy seeing the Parish Church floodlit and wish to commemorate an event or remember a person, please contact Brenda Bailey (01763-853401) or Pam Sharp (01763-852425). The price is £5.

County Council and Local Updates

County Councillor Linda Oliver

Council Tax increase — Very regrettably an increase of three per cent in council tax has had to be agreed. This is due to the low level of funding received from central Government. Our percentage increase in central Government funding is 2.2% and for comparison see below:

2.2 % Cambridgeshire	3.3 % Essex
4.4 % Suffolk	5.3 % Norfolk

Forecasts show that Cambridgeshire County Council will be £113 million worse off in five years' time and therefore officers and Members are planning how to make (allowing for inflation) a 35 per cent cut in spending through to 2015.

Difficult times ahead! It is becoming more frequent that a parish council ends up providing funding for small local schemes as they take on projects which would, until now, have been carried out by the District or County Council.

Public liability in clearing snow and the use of salt bins — guidance from the County Council — In essence, householders do not need public liability insurance if they clear snow and ice from the pavement. However, they must not do anything that could potentially put themselves or others at risk. The CLG (the central Government's Communities and Local Government Department) have recently made a statement which covers the myth of liability. They say: *“there is nothing in health and safety legislation to prevent a person taking sensible steps to clear a pathway to improve the situation, or volunteer to do shopping for a neighbour in need. Nor should anybody who volunteers to support their community feel they are in danger of being sued and be put off wanting to help others.”*

Reporting potholes — Please use the following contact details to report pothole locations to the County Council:

on-line via http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/forms/highway_defect.htm
e-mail street.scene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
'phone: 0345-045 5212

Broadband – update on discussions with BT — I attended a high level meeting with BT, Andrew Lansley MP, EEDA, SCDC Chief Executive and the County Council Corporate IT Director and Portfolio Holder. Outcome: our main BT contact has agreed to investigate specific connections in local villages to identify the problems. Therefore, if you are having problems could you please forward to me your e-mail address for onward transmission to BT. This detailed evidence will help me pressurise BT (again) for local improvements in infrastructure/service provision. It is, however, very clear that at present BT are not keen to invest in infrastructure.

In the meantime, BT have advised that a piece of kit called I-Plate can be provided free by BT to BT subscribers. In other cases it costs about £6.00. BT advise that it *can* improve broadband speeds (note: *can*, not *will*). Secondly, EEDA at our high level meeting offered EREBUS Broadband Demand Registration website run by the East of England Development Agency: <http://www.erebusonline.org.uk/>. It is extremely important to register as this will help persuade the funding from EEDA in this direction for the upgrading of local infrastructure.

County Farms centenary celebration — a new community wood has been planted in Oakington to celebrate 100 years of Cambridgeshire County Farms Estates. The wood will be a lasting commemoration of the Estate's centenary. Funding for the new woodland was provided by the Forestry Commission through a Woodland Creation Grant and by the County Council.

The first plot of land on the Estate was bought at Milton in December 1908. Since then the Estate has grown to approximately 13,500 hectares of land and 250 tenant farmers. Today, new tenants come from all walks of life including people from a farming background looking to take on their first independent farm business and people looking for a life-style change.

Trading Standards has been shortlisted in the Community Involvement category of the Local Government Chronicle Awards 2010 for its Community Alcohol partnership campaign. This has become a blueprint across the country in tackling underage drinking. The scheme brings together traders, enforcement agencies, health organisations, local councils and the community to tackle various aspects of underage drinking. It has seen great success where it has been trialled.

Government's Future Jobs Fund — The County Council has successfully led a partnership bid to secure funding of up to £1.5 million from the Government's Future Jobs Fund. This funding is supporting the creation of 237 temporary jobs that will benefit the community and provide opportunities for unemployed young people aged 18–24 and for eligible unemployed adults aged 25 and above to gain skills, confidence and experience that will enable them to secure employment. The programme is being co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council's Nextstep Adult Guidance service.

GCSE and A-Level league tables — Students in Cambridgeshire have excelled in the latest exam results. Newly-published tables, based on 2009 A-level and GCSE results, show the county was ranked 32nd out of almost 140 local authorities for GCSE scores, with 56.2 per cent of youngsters getting at least five A*–C grades at GCSE, including English and maths. The county's sixth formers fared even better, giving the county 22nd best results in the country at A-level.

NATS, Stansted, Luton and the perceived increases in overflying — I am working with Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils on these issues. We will be attending a meeting at NATS headquarters during w/c 5th April to put forward residents' concerns.

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