

Introduction

Firstly, Seasons Greetings. If you wish to write an article or advertise a future event please write to the Parish Clerk at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ. Next issue due out in April.

Where is your child tonight?

Do you know where your child is? When I say this I include young adults as well. I wonder how many people are aware of the problems we are currently facing, yes even in our parish, with anti-social behaviour.

In the past few weeks alone there have been numerous incidents. Here are a few examples; a post box set alight with a firework; a fire extinguisher discharged through a letterbox and repeated damage to the play park in Braeside Road.

I am sure you will agree this is unacceptable behaviour and will not be tolerated by the Police or the Parish Council.

The persons responsible for these incidents live among us. Please help to keep our parish a safe and pleasant place to live. Know where your children are and what they are doing.

I encourage the young people and community as a whole to be observant and report all incidents. I also appeal to you to be willing to stand by what you have seen so the offenders maybe dealt with appropriately.

If you witness something occurring and the offenders are

still there please ring 999 and give as many details as possible. If it something that has occurred and the offenders have left please ring 01202 222222.

If it a general complaint or advice please ring me, your beat officer PC 121 Julia Wilkinson on 01202 226027 and ask for Dorset Police.

Fireworks

Just like Christmas, fireworks should be banned outside their seasonal time. For those of you who do not remember the date, it is the 5th November and with the exception of New Year's Eve let's keep it that way. The current trend of spreading fireworks to a whole month and beyond of partying is causing a great deal of distress to many animals not just domestic pets. If those enjoying themselves could see the terror and upset of a pet so affected, I am sure many would think again. There is new legislation limiting their use. The Police can charge you with Public nuisance.

Your Community and Council Want YOU!

The Parish Council currently has a vacancy. The role is voluntary and involves attending monthly meetings. The Parish Council is consulted by both District and County Councils on matters affecting this Parish. In addition, the various committees consider and comment on Planning applications, grants and finance and manage the Parish lands and assets.

Contact the Clerk on 01425 482727 if you would like to know more.

St Claire's After School Club - After School Care

Many of you may well be aware of the After School Club in Braeside Road, but did you know it is rated as one of Dorset's best? St Claire's offer a collection service from school, a healthy snack, and a wide variety of games and activities. They also offer Drama, Dance and Art clubs, as well as organizing outings. Whether you need childcare, or would just like your child to make new friends in a social environment, St Claire's is offering the best all-round answer.

For more information call Karen on 01202 303742.

Braeside Bowls Club

The Bowls Club, near to the Village Hall, offers all year round, outdoor bowling, on its all weather bowling carpet. Throughout the winter months, we hold various competitions and every Tuesday afternoon 10 teams of men battle it out in the Club's Triples League. Finals Day is on the 26th March 2006.

The Club has a very active Social Calendar, with Sunday Lunches, Evening Dinners, Whist Drives, Quiz nights and our annual Dinner Dance and Prize Award Ceremony. For the first time in 27 years, the Club elected a lady President, Mrs Jean Walter. If you would like to add to our numbers please telephone 01425 475018 or just call in for a friendly chat. Coaching will be given to new bowlers.

**LARGE PRINT VERSION
CONTACT PARISH CLERK**

Hive of Activity – The Village Hall

Booking Secretary call Lisa on 01425 475807 (Please keep to sociable hours)

The Village Hall continues to thrive under the excellent auspices of the Village Hall Management Committee. There is a wide variety of Clubs and organisations regularly using the facilities from Pilates, dancing, Yoga and indoor bowls and more too numerous to mention. Pop by and look at the noticeboards for an up-to-date list of activities available. The hall is an excellent venue to hire with or without kitchen facilities and good value for money.

At the request of the Management Committee the Parish Council has been fortunate in obtaining a grant of £1563 from Dorset Community Action for new fireproof stage curtains, which we hope to have these installed by January.

Training YOUR Owner A guide for dogs

I am sure if the subject of this title were possible we would not have the dog mess problem that we currently do at Braeside Road. Why is it that a small percentage of dog owners seem totally oblivious, of the need, when their dog relieves itself to pick it up and pop it into a bin? There is no excuse, we have three bins at Braeside and two at Horton Road, all sited close to exit points for easy use. No matter how much you train it I haven't heard of a dog yet who can get the bag out and clean up itself, so I'm afraid **YOU** have to do it. If you can't you really shouldn't have a dog.

The Horton Road and Braeside Road Recreation Grounds are subject to a Poop Scoop Byelaw. The Children's play area is also subject to a dog ban byelaw. If you are caught breaching the byelaws by the Dog Warden, an Officer of the Council or Police Officers you can be issued with a fixed penalty ticket, which could cost you up to £1,000. This can also result in a criminal conviction.

Over the last couple of months dog mess has been found on several occasions in the fenced off Children's Area and in the goal mouth at Braeside.

For those of you that don't clear it up, please think, would I like to play in dog mess? Would I like to be responsible for a child or adult to go blind or even worse – and yes this is possible. If you allow others in the household to walk the dog remind them of their responsibilities and the penalties.

Finally for those of you who do clear up, a huge thank you on behalf of the residents and myself for being a responsible owner I wish we had more like you, this article is not aimed at you. It is a minority spoiling it for the majority, but they really are leaving a huge mess!

Ann Jacobs, Parish Clerk and yes dog owner!

Freedom Youth Club

Are you between the ages of 12-21?

The Freedom Youth Club offers social activities from Snooker, Table Tennis, Regular BBQs and Organised Trips to somewhere where you can simply 'chill out', listen to music, watch a video and enjoy a cola with like-minded friends.

Open from 7pm on Monday and Wednesdays. Situated in its own clubhouse, located to the rear of the Parish Hall in Braeside Road

Prelude to a Tip

Despite persistent rumours to the contrary, there are no current plans to stop residents of this Parish using the Hampshire County Council-owned recycling facility on the Verwood Road. That is according to Lindsay Cass, Head of East Dorset District Council's Technical Services Division, who is the man that knows about these things.

This excellent facility is right on our doorstep, and there are

equally good kerbside recycling facilities run by East Dorset District Council for most of us. So the mentality of those who fly tip is something of a mystery to responsible members of society.

My own theory is that most of the tippers are not of this Parish. I think that those who have low-level criminal tendencies will take the attitude that the countryside is a convenient tip until they get caught.

Catching the culprits is not as easy as it sounds. I am told that reasonable suspicion is not enough to get a prosecution. Many of us have seen the ubiquitous motor home in a local car park, complete with feral dogs, hollering parents and swearing children. When it has gone, all that remains are a dozen bin bags and a pile of containers from the local fast food outlets. You and I both know who did it, and may even have taken a registration number. Sadly, that is not enough. The act of tipping has to be witnessed.

So when my wife says I have turned into a Meldrew, I say they drove me to it. Why not become one too? Next time you see a prelude to fly tipping, stay long enough to witness it. A prosecution or two might make our Parish much tidier.

Councillor Mike Dyer
Chairman

Speed

Yes it really is still a major issue. We are awaiting Speed Indicator Devices in several locations and more enforcement by the Police. But we can all help by keeping to the speed limit. It is not just outsiders, visitors and people cutting through. Current hotspots reported are Woolsbridge Road, Lions Lane Sandy Lane and Hurn Road. All of these are residential roads with children and the elderly about. If you hit someone at 30mph they have a reasonable chance of surviving the greater the speed the higher likelihood of death. So cut your speed it's just not worth it!

Parish Open Spaces

Volunteers help regularly with the conservation of our parish open spaces. They help with the management of heathland and, in Moors Valley Country Park and Avon Heath. Residents are welcome. Gloves, tools, supervision, hot drinks are provided. Wear sensible footwear, old clothes, and bring a picnic if staying all day. Most tasks start at 10.00am and finish by 4.00pm, but you put in as many hours as you wish. Have fun, exercise and do something useful. Parking is free for volunteers on all sites.

The programme for the next few months is:

2nd Sunday of every winter month (8th Jan., 12th Feb., 12th March)-Avon Heath. Regular work parties: clearing scrub; burning brash. RSPB/Friends of Avon Heath tasks.

Feb/March 2006--Lions Hill.

Volunteers will be undertaking 3 days of pine regrowth clearance; dates to be confirmed (see Community Noticeboards)

Brian Kliger (141 Lions Lane) holds a small stock of gloves and loppers for ad hoc forays onto Lions Hill to remove pine regrowth. Phone if you have a few hours to spare.

Local contact for all groups and more information: Brian Kliger 01425 474425

Rogue Tree Contractors

We are very lucky to have such an abundance of trees in the Parish. However, there are times when trees cause concern. If this is the case the resident should check with EDDC's Tree Section if the tree has been protected by a Tree Protection Order. If it has then an application has to be submitted to EDDC's Tree Section for permission to carry out the work. If it is not protected then it is okay to go ahead. In either case it is advisable to use a recognised qualified Tree Surgeon to carry out the work.

There are rogue tree contractors whose quotation might sound good but their work is not. It is wise to ask around or ask your District Councillors to find out for you. If trees are protected and permission is not sought this can lead to a fine of up to £20,000.

Badgers Update

At the time of going to print the latest news I have is that the consultancy doing the survey have nearly completed collating the forms that everyone was so kind to return and it is obvious that we have as many as four setts in the Parish. The sett in Laurel Lane is the only one giving cause for concern due to its close proximity to the A31, and it is felt by the local residents that we should get the sett licensed, which would give us the chance to hopefully apply to move the badgers to a safer more acceptable area. This would of course be beneficial to not only the residents but also the badgers.

Is your Post Office an Endangered Species?

By the end of March 2005 a total of **2422 urban Branches** were closed as part of the effort to create a more stable environment that will encourage further investment and support a modern and accessible Post Office network and a sum of £148.7 million had been paid in compensation grants to departing Sub-Postmasters during this two year period.

The Government is funding the **Rural Post Office Network** to the tune of £150 million per annum until 2008. There are several pilots around the country to find a way of replacing this income stream with new initiatives and services.

These pilots include mobile offices and home services where a Sub-Postmaster establishes a Website; customers register and email their requirements, which are delivered on his/her weekly visit to the village. Trials include

“core and outreach” schemes where Sub-Postmasters from a larger town or village offer Post Office services for a few hours a week in smaller surrounding settlements; community buses to bring customers to the Post Office and partnership schemes with external bodies such as the local Police Force. However, “one size does not fit all” but complementary solutions can be developed to safeguard services which could otherwise be lost.

We need a sustainable network with good-looking Post Offices and more viable business ideas for the Sub-Postmasters who run them. The loss of Pension and Allowance payments represented over 40% of income and Ebay and personal banking is not replacing this shortfall in income. However, with the work of the Regional Business Transfer Advisors and Local Plan initiatives I am optimistic for the future.

Cllr Noel Hindmarch

Local Public Courts Re-open

The Tennis Club at the Village Hall is proud to announce the opening of the recently refurbished Tennis Courts. With a superb top of the range all weather surface they are an asset to the Parish. Courts are available for hire but strict footwear regulations are applicable to ensure the longevity of the new surface. The Club has a thriving junior section but all ages are welcome. Feel free to come and take a look around the facilities.

If you would like to join the Club or just pay and play please ring 01425 489388
Answer phone cleared daily.

Brown Bin Liners

During October you should have received your free supply of 3 rolls of the recyclable bin liners. If you have not please contact East Dorset District Council, Technical Services on 01202 886201. **Remember** if you move house leave supplies of liners for the new owner.

Parish Plan Update

A big thank you to all who took the time to complete and return the Parish Plan Questionnaire. Out of some 3250 households 500 were returned which equals a return of 15.4%.

Our task now is to carefully analyse your responses. The parish plan is all about consultation, we cannot do it without **YOU**. So what next? The information collected will form an interim draft report. Once completed we will hold an Open Day to which you are all invited.

You may say, "Oh no not another talking shop" the answer is not at all. This will be your day, no lectures just plenty of information for you to peruse, activities you can become involved with if you so wish plus a chance for us to meet you.

We shall also be extending an invitation to all groups and businesses within the parish to have stands where you can obtain information, and most important of all, to provide another chance for you to tell us what your aspirations are for this parish in an informal, welcoming and enjoyable setting. **SO WATCH THIS SPACE** for the invitation in 2006.

Cllr Jennifer House, Parish Plan Steering Committee.

Community Champions in East Dorset

Launching the 2006 Community Service Awards, Chairman of East Dorset District Council, Cllr Mrs Queenie Comfort, said: "Among our community there are many heroes who deserve recognition and this is the opportunity for the public to put forward names of people they consider worthy of an award. I urge you to take this opportunity to have their kindness, caring or work recognised".

You can submit nominations in the following categories: -

Art/Culture
Sport/Leisure

To the upkeep of the Environment and Conservation

Young Person's Contribution to the Community (under 18 years)
Adult Person's Contribution to the Community (age 18+ years)
Achievement in the face of adversity/disability

The 2006 scheme sees the introduction of a new category encouraging nominations in the field of conservation and the environment.

If you know anyone with a special interest in any of these categories please send in your nomination. Forms will be available throughout the district from January and at the Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne. For further information telephone 01202 886201 ext 2324. The closing date for nominations is Friday 3rd March 2006.

Lions Hill Nature Reserve.

The Lions Hill Nature Reserve, owned and managed by the Herpetological Conservation Trust, has seen some exciting developments during 2005 with more planned for 2006.

Conservation work carried out last winter involved removing thousands of seedling pines from a large area of central Lions Hill. This work is enabling the heather and grasses to return, helping to make the area suitable for the rare heathland wildlife that makes Lions Hill special. The removal of encroaching gorse has also ensured the official footpath has remained open so people can continue to enjoy the reserve.

Local volunteers have contributed a large amount to this work, helping keep the heathery areas open. This work has only been achieved with the help of Brian Kliger, who has also helped the Trust secure a grant from the parish council. The grant will be used to enable the BTCV to carry out conservation tasks in spring to help keep the paths clear of gorse and small pines. The Dorset Countryside Volunteers, another voluntary group, also helped out, this November.

The HCT's own field team will also be carrying out further clearance work across Lions Hill this winter. A further thinning of the large pines is required to keep the reserve open and suitable for its heathland wildlife. The mowing of firebreaks into the heather will also take place to help protect wildlife and property.

The whole nature reserve has also now been declared an 'Open Access' area. This means everybody has the right to walk across all of the designated reserve, but with this right comes responsibility and people are reminded to ensure they pick up after their dogs.

The Trust hopes to have a large new notice board in place this winter which will enable information about the reserve, its management, 'Open Access', walks and talks and all the other things going on to be posted up.

Please contact the Herpetological Conservation Trust on 01202 391319 for further information or if you would like to get involved in helping to care for Lions Hill Nature Reserve.

Neal Armour-Chelu

The Herpetological Conservation Trust, Dorset Reserves Manager

Musical Instrument – Grade 3 or more?

Come and join Con Brio!
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ST LEONARDS & ST IVES
We lead the music on a Sunday morning about once a month and practice on the Wednesday evening before.

Contact 01425 470906 for more details.

Dialaride

CAN WE HELP YOU?

For people in wheelchairs and those who have difficulty using public transport.

Pick up from your home to the destination of your choice.

Just a call away ring **01202 8806999.30am to 12.30pm**
Monday to Friday.