

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Parish Newsletter. You will find below your invitation to the **Parish Plan Open Day on Saturday 8th April 2006**. This event has been arranged by a group of volunteers known as the Parish Plan Steering Committee. This is a group of 15 residents who valiantly volunteered to consult with the residents of our Parish to formulate a Parish Plan. The cost of this consultation is being met by a grant from Dorset Community Action.

The Committee is independent of the Parish Council and is formulating a plan based on its findings. What you like, don't like, need / want to preserve, and what you won't accept. The Parish Council would like to encourage you to support the Open Day. There will also be displays from a wide variety of groups within our community. Come along have a look at what's on offer in our Parish bring the children or Granny and take the opportunity to have a cup of tea and discover something new. It's also another chance to give your point of view for the future of the Parish.

The Parish Council will also be represented at the Open Day. We hope to have some plans for improving the play area on display and would greatly appreciate your comments and views suggestions for improvements on this and other Council matters.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Cllr Mike Dyer
Chairman of the Parish Council

Parish Plan Invitation

An Open Day will be held on

Saturday 8 April 2006 10.30am until 5 pm

At the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

15.4% of you responded to the questionnaire that we sent out, come along to an Open Day and see what was said and have the opportunity to put your point of view. Tell us about the area in which you live and what you would like to see in the Plan.

This will be the last consultation before the Plan is published. Help us to ensure that it reflects all our opinions and not just the 15% who responded. Whatever your motivation, please come along, have fun and make it a community event.

Look after your Parish – have an input

St Leonards and St Ives Parish Plan Steering Committee

Community Support Vehicle

A Dorset Police Community vehicle calls at the Parish on published times and locations each month. Due to the lack of use of this facility and various changes to its funding this will cease as from 1st April 2006.

There is a Community Office situated in the Community Centre at Ferndown, open on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 10am and 12pm. If you find this difficult to get to we have arranged to hold informal drop-ins at the Parish Office on selected dates. The dates will be publicised on the Parish and Community notice boards. If you wish to bring anything to my attention or have a chat this will be the ideal opportunity. If it is successful then I will look to make it a more regular fixture. As you know you can always give me a call on 01202 226027 and I will get back to you as soon as I can or you can email me at :
julia.wilkinson@dorset.pnn.police.uk.
We will also be in attendance at the Parish Open Day on 8th April.

Home Watch

Just recently the Membership of Home Watch has fallen due to a number of co-ordinators moving out of the District and no replacements coming forward. Homewatch are keen to expand their general membership but to provide information and back up for our members more co-ordinators are needed. The more co-ordinators they have the fewer members each is responsible for. Can you help?

A co-ordinator delivers the tri-yearly newsletter to Members in their group, introduces themselves to new residents in their area and collects the annual subscription fee of £1 per annum.

If you are interested in joining the scheme or would like to just know more, come and talk to us at the Parish Plan open day on the 8th April, 10.30am-5pm, in the Village Hall, Braeside Road. Alternatively, please call our Membership Secretary on 01425 476967 or David Kerly, Chairman of Home Watch on 01202 874675.

Home Watch, watching out for each other, keeping you informed of criminal activity in your area, to keep you and your property safe.

St Leonards & St Ives Ex-Services Club

The Club began back in 1949 when forty ex-service men met in the village hall and formed the St Leonards & St Ives Ex Services Club. Each person attending paid one shilling and the £2 raised was the starting capital for the Club. The ground for the new club building was donated by the late Mrs Beck in memory of her son Denis a Royal Air Force pilot killed in World War Two. The first club building was built by voluntary labour and opened on Easter Sunday 1954 by Colonel E G St Aubyn who was the Chairman of the Welcome Home Fund.

The Club is a living memorial to those lost in conflict. The club can be found in School Lane, St Ives. Entertainment and other activities are held throughout the year to suit a wide age range, new Members are welcome and anyone can join. To join call 01425 472087.

Parish Council Information

Your Parish Office is open to the public Tuesday to Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm. As there is only one member of staff it is on occasion necessary to close the office for leave or training.

Information is regularly updated on Parish matters on the notice

boards sited at: the One Stop; Post Office; Doctors Surgery; Village Hall; layby Hurn Road; A31 close to Boundary Lane and Oaktree Park. There is also a Parish Web site www.stleonardspc.org.uk and the Clerk can be contacted on office@stleonardspc.org.uk or by telephone on 01425 482727.

The Parish has two volunteer footpath wardens, Mr Peter Walker and Mr Brian Kliger if you have anything to report in this connection please do so via the Parish Office number.

Bridleway 16

Avon Heath Country Park is to install a gate/barrier at two locations on this bridleway, which runs from Brocks Pine to Boundary Lane. The gates/barriers will help to deter the constant problem of fly tipping along this bridleway. There will be a 1.5 metre gap at the side of each gate/barrier for use by walkers and horse riders.

St Leonards Hotel Bus Shelter Returns

In October 2004 the bus shelter adjacent to the St Leonards Hotel was demolished in a road traffic accident. It took almost a whole year to obtain full recompense from the insurance company of the driver, and then we were informed by the District Council that as it is on this type of road we would have to apply for planning permission. Once obtained the new shelter was ordered and will, if not already back in situ, be installed imminently. We apologise to those who have been inconvenienced.

Braeside Recreation Ground

The Parish Council have recently carried out remedial works to the grounds, including laying turf to repair the goal mouth, improving

drainage and fertilising. Due to several wire-cutting incidents the high laurel hedge at the front of Braeside Road had to be severely reduced. Sadly the incidents have not ceased, whether these are attempts to break-in to the Club or just to retrieve the odd errant ball is unknown, but if you see this happening please report this criminal damage to the Police.



Update on Badgers Survey

Thank you to all who responded to the Badger survey. 41 replies were received.

Badgers are omnivorous, feeding on earthworms, insect larvae, fruit, bulbs and household scraps. Over the last 20 or more years, badgers have been increasingly found in residential areas. Badgers exploit gardens, which offer a rich and wide variety of food sources.

Many people reported that they enjoyed the badgers visiting; and indeed those who deliberately fed them household scraps or peanuts were much less likely to experience damage. However, there were one or two people for whom the damage could not be ignored or tolerated.

The badger activity occurred in six clusters within the Parish close to Lions Hill and the Racecourse, Boundary Lane, Laurel Lane, Braeside Road, St Ives Park and Avon Castle. The badgers in Laurel Lane and Braeside Road were truly urban – i.e. living in and feeding entirely within gardens. For the rest, it appeared that badgers were resident in nearby woodland or open space and made use of gardens to supplement their other foraging areas.

Badgers have enjoyed legal protection since 1973 and most recently under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), not because they are rare, but because they have been subject to persecution and cruelty. Badgers cannot be moved from one area to another unless there is 'space'. Nature is such that any spaces are soon filled, so whilst it is possible to move badgers from a sett, but this can only be to another sett within the same territory. Therefore, it is unlikely that the badgers will be moved from Laurel Lane or Braeside Road, but if the need arose, they would be provided with a safe alternative sett instead and incorporated into any new scheme.

I will be offering advice at a surgery on Wednesday 29 March. If you would like me to visit your garden on that day to offer advice, please contact me on 01249 740261. There is free advice available on badgers in your garden from a leaflet produced by The Badger Trust (www.badger.org.uk).

Penny Lewns, The Badger Consultancy

Celebrating 20 Years of the Beaver Scout Movement

The 1st St Leonards & St Ives Beaver Colony have decided to celebrate the 20th National Anniversary of Beaver Scouting, and their own 2nd anniversary, by turning the Guides and Scout compound into a wildlife area. The project will involve a lot of work firstly clearing litter, overgrown ivy, brambles and scrub from the area. This will be followed by looking at ways to encourage nature. The Beavers (and parents) have certainly started with a lot of enthusiasm during the February Half Term, encouraged by a visit from the local Community Support Officer. It is hoped that this will enable the Beavers to achieve their environment badge and in the process teach them to study and

help nature. Hopefully once more clearance has been completed they will be able to put up bird boxes and plant some wild flowers. A long term but rewarding project.

Beavers returned to the Parish 2 years ago following a substantial break and are now thriving. If you would like to help or join please contact Sue Loose on 07990 601725. There is a waiting list for the under 6's.

Does your hedge or tree, overhang onto the footpath?

Overhanging vegetation, anyone walking the footways will tell you it's a pain! We all know of some and the Parish Clerk often receives complaints about this.

Dorset County Council has a legal duty to ensure full unobstructed access over the public highway (and that includes the footpath). It is however, the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that their hedge, tree or planting does not overhang or obstruct the highway; footpath; road signs or street light.

There must be a minimum headroom of 2.1m above pedestrian areas (full width of the footpath) and 5.2m clearance above the carriageway.

So what happens if you don't cut back the vegetation?

Unfortunately where it is not possible to gain voluntary co-operation, a formal Notice will be served on you. This will give you 14 days to cut back the offending vegetation. If the work has still not been done, DCC may arrange to carry out the work and send YOU the bill!

So it's your duty to check your boundary and make sure you comply, but please take care to check for nests before clipping to avoid damage or destruction to them. For safety please ensure all vegetation is cut back vertically.

Grants Awarded By the Parish Council

As we approach the end of another financial year you may like to know where some of your Council Tax money has gone. Grants under the Local Government Act 1972 awarded by your Parish Council have gone to:-

- Age Concern to cover the meeting room hire costs
- Brightside Club to cover the meeting room hire costs
- Village Hall to cover the insurance of the building
- Dial A Ride Scheme – to assist those with mobility problems
- St Ives Pre-school – toys donated
- Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
- Jigsaw Appeal Royal Bournemouth Hospital
- Herpetological Trust – For the Parish volunteer group in maintenance and clearing work.
- St Leonards & St Ives Tennis Club – towards the new fencing
- Greyfriars Replacement Community Bus
- Royal British Legion
- Citizens Advice Bureaux

In addition the Council has sought and obtained grants from:-

- Dorset Community Action for the Parish Plan £2350 and fireproof Stage Curtains for the Village Hall £1565.30.
- The Countryside Agency £2100 to aid the Dial A Ride scheme

The Council has had to, on occasion, decline grant requests. All requests have to meet exact criteria and at the end of the day the Members must decide if it is a prudent use of Tax Payers money it must also be deemed to benefit the electorate.

Jigsaw Appeal Trek



A big thank you to all those parishioners who kindly sponsored me on my Jigsaw Appeal trek. Because of a family bereavement I ended up trekking through the mountains, cloud- and rain- forests of Costa Rica in Central America in late November, rather than across southern Iceland in September!

Quite a different experience, lots of mud, steep climbs and exhaustion, but I made the finish. I am at least 20 years older than my fellow 9 trekkers (nearer 30 than a few), so I'm quite pleased with the outcome - but never again!!

The important news is that I raised over £2100 for the Appeal (for new scanning machines at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital).

Cllr Graham Willetts

St Ives First School Swimming Pool

The swimming pool at St Ives First School will be open again to parishioners during the school summer holidays.

This will be from 22nd July to 4th September, from 11am to 4pm Monday to Fridays; Saturdays it is available for private hire.

The charge will be £1.25 to swim (to be confirmed), the pool can take a maximum of 30 at one time, so a log is kept and when this number is exceeded the first swimmer must make way for new arrivals.

Although a lifeguard is on duty, all children must be supervised by an adult.

Light refreshments are available. For more information contact the school Admin. Office 01425 475478.

Annual Parish Assembly Friday 5th May 2006 at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Don't miss this opportunity to address the Parish Council and hear from Members of Homewatch, Braeside Bowling Club, St Leonards & St Ives Tennis Club, the Village Hall Management Committee, and duties permitting the Police.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ringwood & District Good Neighbours

Our group has been set up with the help and encouragement of the Hampshire Voluntary Care Groups Advisory Service. Our aim is to be good neighbours and help people in the Ringwood area with such things as collecting prescriptions, shopping, walking the dog, collecting library books, driving people to appointments, basically anything a neighbour would do.

Already we have had generous help from various people and organisations in Ringwood, however, we could do with more.

We have an enthusiastic and friendly committee and over 30 volunteers. We will be launching the new service from 24th March 2006.

If you would like to volunteer or need help, contact:-
Chairman Terry Exley 01425 475006
or Secretary Mike O'Brien 01425 474395