

Flooding

Wessex Water have recently acknowledged local residents have experienced drainage and flooding problems and improvements are due to be completed by 2009.

In order to monitor the current situation we would appreciate residents who experience specific problems this winter notifying the Parish Council, please email or drop a line to the Parish Clerk (see end of newsletter)

Flooding Archive

Cllr Ray Dudman has recently taken on the role of voluntary Flood Warden; his initial task is to build up a historic picture of flooding. If you have any old photographs of flooding in this area please send them to him via the Parish Office. If you know the actual location, and approximate year taken this would greatly help. If you would like your photograph returned please ensure you enclose your address details.

Use of Concessionary Fare Passes X3 service

East Dorset District Council have arranged with Wilts and Dorset that they will accept East Dorset concessionary fare passes on service X3, even where the service is boarded by East Dorset residents outside the District. This will, for example, permit resi-

dents of St. Leonards and St. Ives to board in Ringwood and travel to Downton, Salisbury or Bournemouth/ Poole. Residents of St. Leonards and St. Ives are able, theoretically, to board the X3 in the parish at the stops at the end of the Horton Road, and use their passes. However, this is very inconvenient – and not very safe - requiring bus users to cross the A31. The new concession will allow St. Leonards residents to travel to Ringwood by any local service and change there onto the X3, and return the same way.

It has to be stressed that this is a single exemption: it applies only to the X3 service. On other services, as before, the rule applies that the bus must be boarded or left at a stop inside Dorset (including Poole and Bournemouth), if the concessionary passes are to be valid. The new concession will run from 1st January.

Parish Plan Update

You may well be thinking “whatever happened to this Plash Plan since the Open Day last April? Well, your representatives on the Parish Plan Steering Committee have been working very hard and giving much of their time not only in looking and analysing carefully your major issues, but also researching and obtaining additional information from various authorities and

associated bodies. This has proven very helpful, as it is important that our plan is both viable and realistic in its objectives.

The major issues are within the categories of Housing and Development, Environment and Conservation, Roads and Transportation, Services and Maintenance and Crime Prevention and Security with some pointers with regard to Youth and Children’s Activities and Recreation and Leisure. All of these will feature very strongly within the Parish Plan.

Of course it is not all doom and gloom, we are so lucky to live in such a sylvan area surrounded by forest and heathlands. Moors Valley Country Park has something to appeal to all ages and of course how lovely it is to be able to walk the paths on Avon Heath Country Park and Lions Hill, all on our doorstep. To be able to do this is a privilege so of course we must always ensure that our actions do not cause damage and that we are mindful of the habitat it provides for plants and many forms of wildlife.

From your responses it is very clear that you do not want the surroundings spoilt or gradually turned from semi-rural to urban.

In order to ensure we are not ploughing ahead in sublime ignorance, we constantly have

to keep pace with ongoing proposals. How will the Regional Spatial Strategy affect us, what about the South East Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework and so on?

The Plan should be ready for publication in Spring 2007 so watch this space and notice-boards for further details.

Cllr Jenny House
Chairman, Steering Group

Parish Maintenance Unit

This unit is organised by Dorset County Council and covers the whole County. It is scheduled to visit our Parish in January and July each year. The unit carries out minor repairs to road signs, drains, road damage and many other things. So if you are fed up with that noisy drain cover banging every time a car passes over it or have any other problem report it so that it can go on the list for their next visit. **Call Clarence on 0800 232323 or email clarence@dorsetcc.gov.uk**

Teenagers Sought!

Are you a teenager or know of one living within the Parish? Do you know that there is an active Youth Club located to the rear of the village hall? Open during term time on Monday & Wednesday evening, from 7- 9.30pm, Freedom Youth Club offers pool, table tennis, etc.

Youth Leaders Nadene and John extend an open invitation to visit the club - bring a friend or two - enjoy a new social opportunity!!

Foster for Dorset

Every child deserves a happy and stable home life. It is for that reason that most of our

children and young people live with foster carers.

We know that foster care can be one of the most positive experiences our children can have. Foster care can provide the stability and acceptance that can help children develop the life skills most of us are fortunate to take for granted.

We are particularly interested in finding foster carers in your area. If you think you are in a position to offer a place in your home, contact Dorset's fostering team on Freephone 0800 1959 654

Hedges

A timely reminder before the birds start nesting in March and the hedge gets totally out of control with Spring growth. Please look around your boundary and ensure that there are no overhanging branches onto a pavement lower than 2.1 metres and a minimum of 2.1 metres in width from the edge of any hedge to the edge of the pavement. After a heavy dew or rain, branches are often weighed down and much lower than you think, if you are walking in poor light or visually impaired they are not nice to walk into. You may even be liable if they cause a trip hazard or accident. So take the opportunity of the next bright day and give your hedge a quick clip.

Please Plant Trees

East Dorset District Council deals with in excess of 600 applications each year to carry out work to trees that are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Many of these applications result in consent being granted for the removal of trees. Often these trees have taken more than 50 years to grow, and it is

very important to replace them to maintain the visual amenity of the area. To ensure new trees are planted, the Council attaches replanting conditions to tree felling permission. By replacing trees we ensure that the attractive landscape that we currently enjoy will exist for generations to come, and the tree age diversity in St Leonards and Ashley Heath continues to improve.

Where replant conditions are attached to permission to fell a tree, the Council will carry out enforcement visits to ensure trees have been planted. Unfortunately this often takes Tree Officers several visits, letters and phone calls before landowners plant trees.

This is a plea to everyone who has a replant condition attached to consent to fell a protected tree. Please plant the tree and do not wait for enforcement action. Tree Officers should be using their time to protect trees, not to chase landowners.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Tree Section at East Dorset District Council on 01202 886201

What's on Your doorstep, go on find out before it disappears.....

There is a saying which goes 'that you don't know what you've lost until it's gone'. Our local businesses form a key element in our community without them we would be just a housing estate, but they can only keep going if they are supported. Make a point of taking a walk around and have a look at what you've got on your doorstep and of course use it.

As a taster.....

Love your Post Office.....

Do you know what's available in yours; go on take a visit and find out, from those little bits you forgot at the supermarket, to your road tax, local knowledge (it's surprising what they know!) You won't have to fight your way through the traffic, and you'll get a warm welcome too!

There are lots of other small businesses around but just to remind you here are some.....

One Stop, Horton Road

The Chemist and Hair Dressers in the High Street, The Little Chef and St Leonards Hotel
Take a break and visit Avon Heath or Moors Valley Country Parks

Want a venue for that special occasion, the Village Hall, three different sized areas all with kitchen access are available for hire call 0784 7430815 speak to Elaine to discuss your requirements.

Besides the actual business premises there is an abundance of clubs, societies and activities regularly held at the Village Hall, take a look at the noticeboard inside the Annex or Main entrance.

Local elections: Your Parish Council Needs You!

Local Council elections will take place on May 3rd this year, and this will include the election of a new council for the Parish of St Leonards & St Ives.

If democracy is to work properly, and for our area to be a good place to live, you need a really effective Parish Council. This note is to remind everyone that it is important to use your vote, but also to ask people to think about standing for the Parish Council.

Although most people don't realise it, Parish Councils have quite far-reaching powers. All their powers however come from Acts of Parliament, and they cannot do anything beyond these defined powers. They also issue a precept, and this is not subject to a limitation in the same way as the District and County Council. In fact your council could, if it could gain the planning permission, build an Olympic Stadium!

Your council not only has powers to take many actions, it is also widely consulted, including regarding planning requests. With such powers has to come responsibility and ethical behaviour, so parish councillors have to formally agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct that applies equally to them, as to the Mayor of London.

If you are 18 or over, feel that your community could be improved, and have some energy with time for the monthly council meetings, or know someone who just needs a bit of encouragement, get in touch with the clerk, Ann Jacobs on 01425 482727.

Ann can also tell you if you are on the Electoral Roll.

For general information about Local Councils, contact DAPTC 01305 260972

And don't forget to vote on 3rd May

Nomination packs are available from East Dorset District Council; you must make sure that you are on the Register of Electors. Registration forms must be received by Wednesday 18 April 2007. Fact-Finding Competition for Kids!

Kids, please join in our recycling fact finding competition! We have recycling facts about two different types of material located on banks in the larger recycling sites around the District – each set of banks has the same facts, so you only need to travel to one mini recycling centre to find out what they are: write them down and send the facts into us at the Waste Reduction Department, and you could win a fantastic recycling goody bag! The nearest banks are located in the car parks of Tesco's and Sainsbury's in Ferndown.

Please send entries by 28th February to:
Fact Finding Competition
Waste Reduction Department
East Dorset District Council
Furzehill, Wimborne
Dorset, BH21 4HN

Also, don't forget to save your liquid food and drinks cartons to take to our bright orange Carton Banks, which are located at 9 of our larger recycling sites around the District. These are on trial for a 12 month period, ending in July, so please make the most of them! The nearest ones are located at Tesco's and Sainsbury's car parks in Ferndown, and Morrison's car park in Verwood.

Now that the festive season has drawn to a close, don't forget about East Dorset District Council's kerbside recycling schemes. Both the Green Bag and Box Scheme for fortnightly collection of paper, plastic bottles, food tins, drinks cans, empty aerosols and all colours of glass bottles and jars, and the weekly Brown Bin Scheme for collection of food waste and cardboard run throughout the area from the kerbside. If you need any advice, equipment or information, don't hesitate to contact the

Recycling Helpline on (01202) 886201, ext 2338/2352.

Parish Paths

We are so aware of the bustle and noise on roads that divide the disparate parts of our parish. Was it always like this?

During mediaeval times, the area was forest, scrub and heathland, and travellers on foot, horseback or in carts followed timeworn paths. Twenty miles would be a good day's journeying. Routes linked small settlements, via places at which to cross a river. Locally, tracks from Rincvede (Ringwood) to Winburne (Wimborne) converged at 'Langeforde', later Palmersbridge, on the Moors River. Nearby Rushton Farm with its chapel may well have been part of Cranborne Abbey's lands pre-conquest, so a resident priest, as warden probably had the additional responsibility of providing shelter and hospitality to passing wayfarers.

Why Palmersbridge? A 100 yard wide stretch of tracks was still visible in the 1940's, but no traces of any masonry bridge. It was more likely just a wooden one for foot travellers. Palmer? perhaps from a past pilgrim returning from the Holy Land with a palm frond? Or a far more intriguing suggestion – perhaps crossing a priest's palm with silver for his blessing! Anyway the name persists at nearby Palmers Ford Farm. Palmers Bridge also seems to have moved over time, as it had been a local name for the bridge over Uddens Water into West Moors before the Ferndown bypass.

By 1759 the old paths, other than for local traffic, were

judged too difficult and expensive, and a turnpike was built. Tolls were collected near Ashley Cross. Bridges took the new road across the two Moors River tributaries, the Cranborne and Sedgebrook (now Uddens Water). The name St. Leonards Farm had been used for some time, so one of the bridges now took that name.

A 1901 photograph of this still rough track near the present hospital site also shows an inn, the Malmesbury Arms, earlier shown on an 1821 map as St. Leonards House. John Hawkins

Volunteer Work Parties On Parish Open Spaces

There are two work parties taking place on Lions Hill, on Sunday 4th March and Sunday 15th April, removing scrub as part of the heathland management programme. Work parties meet along Lions Hill Way by the gates into the hill. It is a 9.45 meet for a 10.00am start. Please phone Graham Stanley on 01202 391319 or local organiser Brian Kliger (01425 474425) to say if you are coming. *Sausages And Baked Potatoes Are Provided For All Lions Hill Volunteers.*

Work Parties in Avon Heath Country Park are organised by Toby Branston, Tel 01425 472975 for more details, or Brian Kliger as above. Parties meet on most Mondays and Thursdays, and on Sunday 11th February, and Sunday 11th March. Please phone for details of meeting places-- usually the Wardens work base, but we sometimes work in South Park and meet at the Boundary Road car park. We start at 10.00am, and finish by

4.00pm or as soon as we get too tired!

St Leonards & St Ives Tennis Club

Hello my name is Paul Handford and I am the Head Coach at St Leonards & St Ives Tennis Club.

The club is situated on Braeside Road and has excellent facilities with four new floodlit Astro turf courts, with a lovely clubhouse and balcony which overlooks them.

There is coaching available for all ages and abilities for juniors from as young as 4 years up to 17 years and for adults as well, which runs from Monday to Saturday all year round and is very reasonably priced.

The club has a great social scene, again for both juniors and adults, and with everybody being so friendly gives the club a real family feel and makes it a great place to play tennis and make new friends.

With the better weather only around the corner, whether you are young or old, beginner or professional, there is really something for everyone here, so come and play tennis at your fantastic local facility and get yourself practising ready in time for Wimbledon!!

For all enquiries please call 01425 489388 or directly on my mobile 07709 821006. Alternatively, email us at stleonardstennis@hotmail.co.uk