

Letter from the Chairman.

As I am writing this we are at the end of what has been a roller coaster of a summer the weather being now so unpredictable after such a promising start bringing its own problems of cancellations of outdoor events and the threat of further flood problems. On top of everything else we have swine flu to try and avoid.

There is an attitude in some members of the younger generation that does not include natural respect towards their elders. We all have our own theories about this and it would be too boring to list them here. There are, however, repercussions in society when taking this attitude into account and unfortunately we have experienced it in our own locality.

Our local youth facility the Freedom Youth Club had to close early this summer as a consequence of the bad behaviour of a few troublemakers at the centre - aided and abetted by young people who were not even members of the club. The Club will shortly reopen after a "cooling off" period and it is hoped that the fresh start and new measures put in place will enable the Club to flourish once more.

Looking at the above we may be forgiven for thinking there is little to be optimistic about. I would challenge this. Walking around our lovely area here in St.Leonards, St. Ives and Ashley Heath the one constant factor that keeps us all feeling optimistic are our gardens. The use of colour, form and creative input is always uplifting to observe and I would like to congratulate everyone in our neighbourhood

that have done their best to bring beauty to the environment.

Stephanie Smith, Chairman

Castleman Trailway - User questionnaire

How do you currently use the Castleman Trailway and how you would like to see it develop in the future? By completing the questionnaire you will be helping us to identify and prioritise areas for future development of the Trailway. If you want a safe cycle route through Wimborne please let us know!

Simply use the website link below and print the survey sheet. **www.dorsetforyou.com/castlemanrailway**

If you are unable to print the survey from this site please contact us on dorsetcountryside@dorsetcc.gov.uk with your name and address and we will send you a postal survey form.

Help us to revitalise Ashley Heath Halt!

How many of you remember the "Grand opening of the refurbished Ashley Heath station"? Believe it or not that was some 15 years ago when the ranger service and the local community went about rebuilding some 27 metres of railway platform at Ashley Heath. I am told that it was a superb event with miniature railway rides provided for the occasion.

Many of us recognise that Ashley Heath Halt is a valuable part of our local heritage. Today most of the platform is again clear of woody vegetation for all to see but what do we do with this heritage feature? As in the BBC television programme "Restoration" we look to give the

platform a new lease of life and purpose.

Paul Jones (Dorset Countryside Eastern Area Ranger) is keen for the local community to be actively involved in shaping the future of the Ashley Heath Halt.

Perhaps we could:

- Recreate the atmosphere of a station
- Commission an artist to provide murals or sculptures e.g. passengers waiting for a train
- Provide some informative displays about the railway and its people at Ashley Heath
- Relocate the restored platform section to adjoin the "One Stop" car park then plant native trees behind neighbouring houses instead

Already we have a small group of local railway enthusiasts whom have offered information and are keen to get involved. One gentleman has already offered to provide miniature train rides again! With local community support we could attract funding to revitalise this feature. So we need your ideas, opinions and support to justify any change and help secure external funding. It will not be just manual work as we will need a group to help submit a grant application on behalf of the community to make this project happen. So if you want to get involved or have any ideas / opinions please contact:

By e-mail:

p.jones@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Post: Paul Jones, Eastern Area Ranger, Avon Heath Ranger Base, Birch Rd, St. Ives, Ringwood, BH24 2DA.

Cost to the community

It is twelve months since I was elected and they have certainly been a fast learning curve, within days of joining the council we were faced with a group of travellers at the Horton Rd playing fields site. Removing them was costly in both legal fees and also the cost of cleaning that was required.

More recently we have had damage done to the Parish Hall with the lead being removed from the roof which led to flooding inside the hall. Unpaid volunteers had the job of cleaning up all the mess caused by the vandalism. For anyone frequenting the Braeside Rd site for either use of the hall or to use the playing amenities provided I am sure share a pride in the facilities that are available to young and the more mature alike. It is sad when over the last year we look at the amount of damage that is done to the equipment that we provide. Damage to children's play equipment now runs into hundreds of pounds. The question is how all this damage happens without anyone seeing anything.

We all have a part to play, if you see any vandalism taking place report it to the police. If you see any illegal dumping of rubbish happening report it to the police. All of these incidents cost us all money. With your help we can reduce the costs incurred by this mindless vandalism which costs you and me the local taxpayer's money.

Cllr R Bryan

Police Report

Although I am pleased to say that overall crime is down slightly by **0.9%**. These figures would unfortunately be better if it wasn't for our burglary figures. Dwelling burglary is up by **300%**, from **3 to 9** in the same period last year. Burglary from sheds and garages are also up **400%**, from **3 to 12**. It is apparent that most properties attacked did not have type of audio security device fitted. Shed alarms can be purchased for as

little as £10. Also only one of the properties burgled in the area had a security alarm fitted. Although these devices won't stop potential intruders they do act as a deterrent. Shed alarms and speed pledge forms are available from the Police community office, Barrington Centre, Penny's Walk, Ferndown. This area is still however one of the safest places to live in the UK.

Dorset Police is committed to making Dorset a safer place, the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) working alongside colleagues from the special constabulary and response officers have conducted numerous speed checks in this Parish since the beginning of the year. These checks have targeted Woolsbridge Road, Boundary Lane and Hurn Lane as these roads were pointed out as concerns. Since these checks have been conducted 12 motorists have been given Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), these are £60 fine and 3 penalty points on their driving licences and 40 motorists were given verbal warnings regarding their speed. Approximately 70% of these drivers live within the parish. Other offences were also dealt with from seizure of vehicles for no insurance and FPNs for other offences such as driver not wearing seatbelts etc.

We are always looking to working with or partner agencies to tackle speeding in order to reduce injury or fatal accidents. We are currently working with East Dorset District Council (EDDC) with the "**speed pledge**" scheme. This scheme is offered to motorists caught exceeding the speed limit where a more appropriate means of dealing would be a verbal warning. The driver is requested to sign up to the pledge that basically states that they will not speed again. EDDC will be keeping a database with all drivers who sign up for the pledge. This can be used as evidence for any future prosecutions.

If you have any concerns please contact myself or Ben King on either 01202 222222, 07825521779 or e-mail

stleonardsstivesnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

PC 1758 Nigel Richards

St Leonards and St Ives PACT

The recently formed Pact for the Parish of St Leonards and St Ives sent out a questionnaire in the Homewatch newsletter. The returned forms were analysed and at a recent meeting three priority issues were selected for action.

Priority One will be speeding in the Parish. This will be dealt with by your Safer Neighbourhood Team, please see their report in this issue.

Priority Two is dog fouling and behaviour in specific areas. East Dorset District Council is investigating this and action will be taken.

Priority Three was put forward by your Parish Council. This is for speeding and safety of pedestrians on the access to Oaktree and Oakdene parks. Your PACT Panel will be investigating this.

Thanks were expressed to those who had returned the questionnaires. If anyone has further issues, or would like to discuss ongoing matters, please contact your SNT on the numbers or email address below.

Dorset Police number 01202 222222 Mobile number: 07825 521779

Email: stleonards-stivesnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Street Lighting Replacement Project

The Parish Council has recently been informed that a review of the County's street lighting has been carried out and work to replace a large percentage of the existing lights is due to commence from November this year. The project is needed to ensure public safety, save on energy and reduce light pollution. **There is no cost to this Parish.** Southern Electric Contracting (SEC) is the Service Provider.

Their role is to identify the street lighting stock in need of replacement within the criteria of the project.

Why is this project taking place?

Primarily safety. Reducing light pollution and energy is also a requirement of the project and once the project is complete the new columns should save between 10 and 17% of the County energy bill and future maintenance costs.

Which roads will be affected?

The scheme is to be carried out in different stages and is prioritised under the scheme. Some roads will not be affected until the second stage which is between 2013 and 2018. Any road or adjacent footpath which is unlit now, will not be lit under this project. The project funding has already been set; it is therefore not possible to extend lighting as part of this work.

On some roads additional lights will have to be installed to comply with the required standard. There is no choice over where the column will be sited. However there is a little flexibility to ensure driveways and footpath access is not hindered. Where possible different wattage's on lanterns are looked at to try and increase the column spacing to try and avoid additional columns being installed.

Any Complaints or queries concerning this project or work in progress must go direct to Southern Electric Contracting - there is a free phone number 0800 068 4145. Please do not contact Parish Councillors or the Clerk.

To all local dog owners

Hello to all dog owners in St Leonards & St Ives. I know that most dog owners are very good with their pets and do not like the thought of their dogs getting a bad name. So if anybody sees inconsiderate owners failing to pick up, please tell them it is their duty to do so. If they do not, it can turn out very expensive for them when they are taken to court by the East Dorset District Council.

East Dorset District Council has employed another dog Warden.
So be warned!

Cllr R Dudman

Road and Footpath Sweeping

The Parish Plan Action Requirement stated: "Regular and additional sweeping required during period of Pine needle and leaf falling". The District Council responded to the statement by saying "The Council will continue to ensure that road sweeping is carried out as per agreed schedules but is unable to support additional cleaning due to financial restrictions". Note clearance of moss and weeds is the responsibility of the County Council.

After liaising with the Parish Council details of the schedules have been obtained. Basically most roads in the Parish are due to be mechanically cleaned 6 times per annum. Footpaths on certain specific roads which have been a regular problem are swept manually. Due to budgetary constraints, other footpaths in the Parish are only swept when requested.

The Parish Plan Monitoring Committee is currently trying to monitor levels of cleaning and trying to establish that the minimum level stated is achieved. The next scheduled clean commences week beginning 16th November. It would help if the public would report when you see cleaning in progress, giving the date, the road and whether pavement or road. Please report it to your local Homewatch coordinator or the Parish Clerk, for the attention of the Parish Plan Monitoring Committee.

Thank you,

Ken Brooks, Chairman of the Monitoring Committee

Some dogs are having a ball

My dog takes me for a walk at least once every day, and would like me to enter a plea for other owners to be careful with balls. The new mutt has turned out to be a complete scavenger. His favourite finds are the discarded bits of tennis balls, shredded by other dogs and left by thoughtless

owners to litter our forest trails and heaths.

Getting him to drop them is not easy, but happily all that have not been retrieved have passed through the system. So far others have not been so lucky. Balls and other things that dogs chase should not be taken on to heaths case because of the disturbance to wildlife. Perhaps that is why mine picks them up.

Cllr Mike Dyer

Congratulations.....

St Leonards & St Ives Tennis Club Achieves Clubmark And Satellite Status!

In these current times it is so good to hear of some really good news. Congratulations to the Tennis Club for all the hard work and commitment of Members and coach which has resulted in achieving these two awards. I am sure without a really strong team pulling together it would not have been possible. Well done on behalf of the Parish Council for putting St Leonards and St Ives well and truly on the map!

We wish the Club, teams and members every success for the future.

You can see more about the Club on their website:
www.stleonards.hitstennis.com

Some information on Ashley Heath Halt

When the railway opened in 1847 there was only Woolsbridge Crossing at Horton Road. Woolsbridge crossing boasted the widest single level crossing gates in the region. The halt opened in 1927 after local market gardeners petitioned for a stop to be built so to transport their goods to market

When the halt was opened the crossing keeper's office was simply adapted to also sell tickets. As a minor stop Ashley Heath boasted two very long platforms. No mention of Halt appears in the platform sign perhaps due to local campaigners wanting a full station! One railway siding beside the double line

track. The halt closed to passengers in 1964. In later years the crossing gates were manned by the shop keeper of the Old Forge (now One Stop!)

The railway at Ashley Heath was operated by:

The Southampton & Dorchester Railway, the London & South Western Railway, the Southern Railway, British Railways Southern Region

Parish Council Office

In 1998 the Parish Council opened a small office at the rear of the Village Hall. There is only one member of staff, the Clerk. The office is a help centre and you can find all sorts of information from cycle maps, leaflets on financial assistance with Council tax, Council Minutes, planning applications even the weekly East Dorset Housing List. If we haven't got the information we will do everything we can to get it. The office is open 10.30am to 12.30pm Tuesdays to Fridays (excluding training days and leave) so if you're walking a distance do telephone first. The office also sells the various rubbish bags although these are also available from your local St Ives Post Office. If you wish to see a plan please give call first as we can only hold them for a short period.

The Council meetings are advertised on the various Council noticeboards sited at the Doctors' Surgery Woolsbridge Road; One Stop adjacent the Pegasus crossing; The Village Hall; Post Office Hurn Road near Greenacres Close; A31 adj. Boundary Lane and Oaktree Park. Full Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month and Committee meetings the first Wednesday and every third Thursday.

Parish Councillors

Did you know?

A Parish Councillor is an unpaid volunteer. With the exception of

the Chairman who gets an allowance of £300 per annum, a Parish Councillor in this Parish does not receive an allowance.

Working Hours of a Councillor

On average each Parish Councillor puts in a minimum of 107 hours per year, many a lot more, just in attending the Council meetings and reading the papers that go with that meeting. This represents approximately 1387 hours of unpaid work carried out by Councillors every year in this Parish. Some Councillors also take on additional hours by representing the Council on other bodies.

Councillors are elected for a period of 4 years; the next election for the Parish will be in May 2012. At the last election 12 people stood for the 13 places so one further person was co-opted. Since the last election we have had one resignation and a bye election for that place was called and it was successfully filled.

Expenses Claimed by Councillors

As mentioned a Parish Councillor in this Parish receives no allowance but they can claim mileage and other expenses incurred representing the Council. In reality Councillors often cover their own costs and in the last couple of years the total expenses claimed by your Councillors was as follows:-
2007/2008 - £37.01, 2008/2009 - £26.80

There is more to mowing grass than you think!

We have had some complaints about grass cutting some of the verges this Summer. The District Council is responsible for most of the cutting but had to stop suddenly and carry out a survey of the Parish after wild orchids were found. By the end of September the orchids will have reached seeding time and we are informed that at this point cutting

is good for it, so hopefully by the time you read this all will be back on schedule.

Bournemouth Airport Draft noise Action Plan – Draft Noise Action Plan

Bournemouth Airport has launched a 16 week public consultation (1st July to 21st October 2009) on its draft plans to manage the current impact of aircraft noise and review the measures in place. Please go to www.bournemouthairport.com to download the report or view it at your Parish Council Office. Your Parish Council urge you to take the time and look at this document and comment before **21st October**.

Tidying up the Parish

Your Parish Council is trying to get an improvement to the general appearance and tidiness of the Parish. We can all do our bit to improve things. For example East Dorset District Council has now increased litter picking to a weekly collection along parts of the Service Road. The Parish Council has a weekly check on some other known trouble spots. There are other examples where we can all help. Such as not blowing leaf litter from driveways onto pavements. There is enough tree debris coming onto paths and roads from the wind without additional litter from residents' gardens being blown out into roads by leaf blowers. Deliberately blowing litter into the road is actually littering and is an offence so please don't. The Council is looking at other things we can do to improve various areas such as asking for additional work and sponsorship for some areas. If you have any ideas or indeed know of anyone who may wish to sponsor an area and keep it tidy please write in to the Clerk Parish Office, Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards, BH24 2PJ.