



LITTLE EATON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Glenda Harrison, 20 The Town, Little Eaton, Derbyshire DE21 5DH
Tel: 01332 831664

Incorporating The Village Hall Newsletter
December 2011

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Telephone Box Mark 1

The restoration of the telephone box is largely complete and is now being used in its new role as a book exchange. See the Book Exchange article for details. Ultimately the Parish Council will be doing a little bit of landscaping along side the phone box. It has also been suggested to have a seat along by the phone box so that you can take time to consider your book choice. This all costs money of course but if anyone was considering a donation for a seat for an area of the village perhaps this is an ideal spot. Please contact the PC if interested.

Telephone Box Mark 2

Flushed with the success of the telephone box makeover the Parish Council is considering adopting the Telephone Box by the Toll Bar on Alfreton Road heading towards Derby. The purchase price is £1.00 only. This box is actually in a poor state of repair and could be transformed with some TLC and a lick of paint.

It's a dirty Job but Someone Has to Do It

Twice a year now for at least the last 5 years the Parish Council has organised a village litter pick in spring and autumn. The autumn clean up has just gone ahead once again with the support of Richard Windsor from EBC Pride in Erewash. A dozen people in all over the course of the weekend and about two hours of time collected a total of about twenty bags of rubbish from around the village. A big thank you to all the volunteers – you know who you are!

Croft Corner and more

The autumn planting at Croft Corner has just been completed to flower for next spring. The small palm which has died is due to be removed shortly and replaced hopefully with a hardier specimen.

Croft Corner cont'd.

Some of the paving bricks around the oak are in need of some repair and this is on the agenda for improvements to the area.

The Youth Café—HELP NEEDED!

The youth Café is going from strength to strength and continues to be very popular. However it is STILL looking for more volunteers to help out from time to time and would be particularly pleased to hear from any male helpers. This of course would be very useful in particular to anyone looking to get experience in youth work for future career interests. If anyone is interested please contact Little Eaton Parish Councillor Norman Grundy.

Simon Downing

Simon Downing who had been Parish Council Chairman for a number of years announced recently that he was standing down as Chairman and leaving the Council. This came as a complete surprise to fellow councillors who had no prior warning of Simon's intentions. Naturally the rumour mill moved into top gear and all sorts of explanations were forthcoming from various sources.

The reason, however, was a fairly straightforward one in that Simon felt that he had to concentrate on his engineering business which was being neglected due to his work with both the Council and also his efforts with the Village Hall. At the end of the day all of this work is voluntary and time consuming and Simon has, like everyone else, to earn a living.

With great regret the Council accepted Simon's decision. He could not be persuaded to change his mind and reluctantly we had to respect his wishes.

At the meeting in October I was appointed the new Chairman and I was both honoured and flattered to take on the role.

Let me first of all make a few comments about the previous Chairman. Simon's departure leaves an enormous gap for the Council to fill. His efforts in the cause of Little Eaton over the last few years have been tremendous and the village owes him a deep debt of gratitude. I would like particularly to mention Simon's role in the Village Hall project. I am of the opinion (and this is shared by many) that without Simon the Village Hall that we have today might still be a dream rather than a reality. As everyone knows the Hall has been a tremendous success due in no small part to the efforts of Simon Downing who is, for the moment at least, still involved with it.

On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council and myself, and I am sure many of you, will join me in wishing Simon every success in the future and we all hope that he will find the time to continue to be involved in the life of the village in some capacity.

I am very conscious that Simon will be a hard act to follow. The Parish Council under Simon's leadership has been very much a "hands on" Council and I very much hope that this will continue. I will do my best to act in the best interests of the entire village. Please feel free to contact me on any issue on 01332 831966 or my mobile number 07809 539004 or bhutchison29@btinternet. The telephone numbers of all councillors also appear in this newsletter. Bill Hutchison

United Reformed Church

The new Minister of the United Reformed Church (Chapel), Revd. Jane Barron has been inducted into the pastorate of Little Eaton and Melbourne.

Although Jane and her husband Nigel are living at the manse in Melbourne, Jane plans to spend time in Little Eaton each Monday. If you wish to speak to her either spiritually or otherwise, her telephone number is 01332 864752 and if you see her walking around the village (she will be wearing her 'dog collar'), please make yourself known to her.

Saturday 26th Nov. - Advent Lunch 12.00. by ticket only ring 558336

Sunday 18th Dec. - Family Carol Service - service led by Revd. Jane Baron.

Saturday 24th Dec. - Midnight Communion 11.15 p.m. Everyone welcome. This service followed by coffee & mince pies.

Sunday 25th Dec. - Village Christmas Day Service - Congregations of St. Pauls, the URC & all from the village are welcome to join together in celebration 10.00a.m. this year the service is held at the URC.

2012

Saturday 21st Jan - Big Breakfast 12.00 - 2.00pm

Saturday 18th Feb - Coffee Morning & Book Sale 10.00 - 12.00

Wednesday 22nd Feb - Ashing Service for Ash Wednesday 10.30 am

Saturday 17th March - Soup & Scone Lunch 12.00 - 2.00pm

For details ring -

Eunice Griffiths 01332 558336

Friends in Harmony

The Friends In Harmony Choir will be giving their annual Christmas Concert in Little Eaton Parish Church on Tuesday 6th December at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available from members of the Choir, or Mrs. Margaret McKay 831916

Barbara Lowe (Musical Director)

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Since the last Newsletter we have held two events which were very well received. The first was '3 Men's Company'. The three professional musicians came up from Bristol and gave two sessions consisting of songs, readings and piano excerpts. It was a great evening and we made £566.61 for our funds. The second was the old favourite 'QUIZ and CHIPS'. The tickets sold well and almost 100 people were there on 29 October. The event raised £694.

The last event for 2011 is 'The Long Eaton Silver Prize Band. Tickets and posters are just available. Tickets from David May on 839497 or Syd Whitehead on 832405. There will be supper and bar and the usual raffle. Tickets £9.00. Come along and enjoy the music and the jokes!

I think that it is worth mentioning that we held a Special Open meeting of our Executive Committee on 17 October. This was called to discuss and consider an amended Constitution. The details were discussed and, with a minor addition, were adopted unanimously.

Lastly, we will be holding our planning meeting for next year's events on 14 November. Let us know of any particular events you would like us to consider. Hope that you all have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. See you at some of our events in 2012?

Newsflash! We have just confirmed that the remaining nine lights in the Thomas Bates Hall have now been made dimmable. It has been worth the wait as we now have a three light and nine light section individually dimmable. The next improvement we hope to fund will be rubbing strips on the walls.

Ray Ford, Chairman

Neighbourhood Watch

Scrap Metal

It is interesting to note how, in these changing times, scrap metal has increased in value and has spawned activities both legal and illegal. The village has been visited recently by a "rag and bone" man collecting bits and pieces of scrap metal and on a recent visit to the tip I noticed a gentleman outside inviting customers to leave their scrap with him rather than the council. There's obviously money to be made and Steptoe is alive and well and operating in Derbyshire. This represents the legal side of the scrap metal world and there is no suggestion that these individuals are outside the law.

There is, of course, the illegal activity which can involve stealing lead from roofs, railway signaling cable and worst of all removing metal plates from war memorials. The individuals who commit these crimes give no thought to the consequences of their actions and they will happily extend their activities to the removal of metal objects from gardens, sheds etc. if they see the possibility of a "fast buck". Please be aware and make sure your gardens and outhouses are secure. The police are active in the tracking and apprehension of these criminals and arrests and prosecutions have been carried out but members of the public need also to remain vigilant

Little Eaton Players

Rehearsals for our Pantomime, Aladdin, are in full swing and tickets will be on sale from early December and will be available from Little Eaton's News and members of the cast and crew.

The show is being performed at Little Eaton's Village Hall on the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd of January 2012. Evening shows start at 7:30pm on the 19th, 20th and 21st with matinees on 21st and 22nd at 2:30pm. Please see posters for further details. Further information from Richard Kirkland on 01332831141

Neighbourhood Watch

Fuel Theft

Everyone who owns a car will be only too well aware of the hike in fuel costs over the last 12 months and fuel theft from filling stations (filling up and driving off) has risen significantly in the same period. Derbyshire police have been very active in the fight against this and have been working closely with filling stations around the county. This includes raising staff awareness of the problem and advising on placement of CCTV surveillance. Again a number of arrests have been made.

Theft of Mopeds

During September there have been a number of thefts of mopeds around the Derby/Ilkeston area despite the fact that some of these were secured with heavy duty chains. Police advice on securing mopeds ;

Use security devices and keep your keys with you

Put security marks on the vehicle

Secure the vehicle to something solid that can't be removed

Always put the steering lock on

Put the vehicle away in a securely locked garage if you have one.

PC Russell Crooks

As reported in the last newsletter PC Crooks now has an office in the Umpires Room in the Village Hall. This means that he is more readily available if you wish to see him and he is holding a surgery on Friday 9th December at 2 p.m. A reminder that his contact details are 0345 123 33 33 or Russell.Crooks.2136.@derbyshirepnn.police.uk

Dog Fouling

Once again a number residents have complained about dog fouling. Little Eaton has a significant number of dogs and the vast majority of the owners of these dogs behave in a responsible manner by clearing up after their dog. However there are obviously a few who don't. Once again we are appealing to the minority to join the majority and **clear it up**. Anyone with a dog issue can contact Shane Barnes the current Erwash Dog Warden on 0845 9072244 Ext 3866
Bill Hutchison

Community Fire Safety Information

Smoke Alarms.

After checking that your own smoke alarm is working, why not check on an elderly relative or neighbour. For more information and to download a free Home Fire Safety Checklist, which will provide fire safety tips and help you identify risks within your home visit our website www.derbys-fire.gov.uk.

Chimneys, open fires and log burners

With the cost of gas and electricity going up, many people have opted to either open up any fireplaces they might have or fit log burners. This has meant an increase in the number of incidents attended by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service that can be attributed to open fires, log burners and poorly maintained chimneys. In 2010/11, the Service attended 172 chimney fires.

Open fires and log burners are very popular but that means people must take care to safeguard their homes by taking common sense precautions:

- keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained
- always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers
- make sure embers are properly out before you go to bed
- fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it weekly

Safety advice for people with chimneys using smokeless fuel, oil, and gas, were given in our last newsletter.

Derbyshire County Council's Trusted Trader scheme can help you find honest and reliable traders, including chimney sweeps and chimney lining companies, who commit to doing a good job for a fair price. To search for these traders go to <http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/keeping-safe/chimney-fire-safety> http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted_trader/default.asp

Cooking safely.

Take care over the Christmas period as firefighters continue to be called to tackle fires started by cooking – over 50 per cent of house fires attended by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service start in the kitchen. To help prevent a fire in the kitchen, follow the simple hints and tips given in our last newsletter:

VAL Partnership

DFRS recently hosted the official launch of four new VAL (Violence, Alcohol harm and Licensing) vehicles at an event at Alfreton Community Fire Station.

These vans, which are already in service, enable the various partners to carry out multi-agency visits to licensed premises in and out of office times. These include visits to pubs, clubs, restaurants, shops and fast food outlets. The teams can then work with licensees and owners to help maintain the safety of their customers. They also act as mobile offices and contain the necessary IT equipment to allow officers to deal with paperwork while still at the scene.

Follow us

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service is now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow us @DerbyshireFRS or find us on Facebook to get the latest fire safety information.

Have a safe winter time.

Regards to all. Tony Highton QFSM

BATES TRUST

Just a reminder that the Bates Trust is still in existence and that anyone who feels they may qualify for assistance should, in the first instance, apply in writing to the Clerk to the Trustees-Mrs J. Easter, 353 Alfreton Road, Little Eaton DE21 5AE. Mrs Easter can answer any questions you may have or refer you to a Trustee.

Carnival

Thanks to everyone who helped in any and every way this year, we had another excellent event.

Dates for your diary for next year are Sunday 1st to Saturday 7th July 2012, and the Parade Band has already been booked!

As far as we know so far, subject to the usual coercion, the only main role that we need to fill is that of Stalls Co-ordinator for Carnival Day, so for more details please call Tom or Fiona.

Information about progress and the date for the AGM in January can be found at www.littleeatonvillagehall.com

Tom Parr, Chairman 07831 190518

Parish Council News

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Due to Simon Downing's departure there is, at the time of writing, a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. This may change but if you read this and think that you might be interested feel free to contact Doreen Roach, the Parish Clerk or Bill Hutchison.

Snow Wardens

The Parish Council has joined the Derbyshire County council scheme to gain maximum warning for severe weather and to enable us to report any serious conditions in the village. This will give us access to some salt for public use around designated areas such as the school and the Town. We will need volunteers to help with spreading and clearing, so please visit the website for more details or contact Tom Parr and Alan Machell.

Telephone Box Book Exchange—How It Works

The Book Exchange has now been open for about a month and we are pleased to say it is being well used. There has been a little bit of messing about with the books when they were pulled off the shelves but thanks to public spirited people these were put back tidily on to the shelves for others to enjoy – so relatively few problems.

Book Exchange cont'd...

Initially the telephone box has been stocked by donations. Contributions will be gratefully accepted and can be fiction or non-fiction and for any age. Please only donate books that are in good condition and that you know someone else will enjoy. If you have large numbers of books to donate, please take them to Clare Howard at 180 Alfreton Road rather than leaving them in the phone box. The books will then become the property of the book exchange.

People can go to the exchange, take a book and swap it for one of their own or one they are returning. The box will be locked at night but available for use at any other time.

The Little Eaton Book Exchange is now one of many examples of renovated phone boxes around the country - others include a mini art gallery, a fruit and veg swap shop, and a tourist information centre.

So next time you finish a book, come to the book exchange for your next good read – it will only be as good as you make it!

For more information please call Clare Howard on 01332 832 847

Useful Numbers

Little Eaton Parish Council

Bill Hutchison (Chairman)	01332 831966
John Easter (Vice Chairman)	01332 880829
Brian Adams	01332 832267
Norman Grundy	01332 832875
Alan Machell	01332 832751
Tom Parr	01332 835477
mobile	07831 190518
Tim Phillipson	01332 833397
Brenda Shore	01332 831904
Alan Summerfield	01332 841497

Clerk to Parish Council

Mrs Doreen Roach 01283 702884
E-mail. morley999@ukonline.co.uk

Erewash Borough Council

Cllr. Alan Summerfield 01332 841497

Cllr. Abey Stevenson

Derbyshire County Council

Cllr. Mrs. Carol Hart 01159 322513

The Village Pre-School Christmas Fair

When - Sunday 27th November 1 - 4pm

Admission free (but we do have a fantastic raffle taking place - tickets 50p each - more below)

What - Variety of stalls selling beautiful things for Christmas gifts, children's stalls, games & activities, refreshments & Santa's grotto!

Where - The New Village Hall, St Peter's Park, Little Eaton
More details from The Village Pre-School 07890 028346

Raffle Tickets available from the pre-school (Lower Hall of The Village Hall) every weekday morning. Raffle prizes include:

Overnight stay, dinner and breakfast for two at Horsley Lodge
£100 cash donated by CSJ Construction

Signed Derby County Shirt
Luxury Hamper donated by Asda
Champagne Breakfast for two at Morley Hayes

...and many, many more!

If you need any further information, please contact Louise at the pre-school or myself on 07584 637942

Newsletter

A copy of this newsletter will appear on the Parish Council's website from mid November.

Please let me have any items or topics for the Spring newsletter

by **1st February**

or e-mail me on
glendaharrison@hotmail.co.uk

Have a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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