

Views from Three Villages



Parish notes

The last Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 24th July, which at the time of writing seems a long time ago. Our new clerk, Erika officiated for the first time and, will I'm sure, be a great asset to the parish.

It was pleasing to see a representative from the police for the first time in many years. P.C.S.O. Pantony has recently been appointed the new Community Support Officer for the Westhampnett and Lavant areas. She will be patrolling on a regular basis and would welcome reports from the public on any issues.

The rest of the meeting was fairly routine until planning applications - particularly the Rolls Royce application for extended hours of working. A working party was appointed. The main concern over the application centred on the traffic movements at unsocial hours- 5.30/6 am and 11.30/midnight. Andrew Blanchard and Bob Holman conducted a survey of people living along Stane Street and well over 100 parishioners, voicing their concerns over the proposed traffic movements, signed a petition.

To cut a long story short, a meeting was held, representations made to CDC, attendance by Henry Adams and Andrew Blanchard, helped to persuade the committee to defer the matter for 1 month. Subsequent to that a further meeting was held- I attended on behalf of the parish council and all parties to the application were present. Rolls Royce made a plea to WSCC about traffic and they have agreed to erect a flashing speed sensing warning sign in Westhampnett. The application was granted consent on 13th September.

What was achieved by the efforts of the parish council and parishioners? Before answering that I would say that we live in a real world- we have a Rolls Royce assembly plant doing well, wishing to produce more and therefore work longer hours- they were bound to get consent. Now what did we achieve?

1. Persuaded the committee to defer the matter for a month for further consultation and discussion at which we were represented.
2. Made the CDC and WSCC fully aware of our concerns, and which are now recorded in black and white.
3. WSCC are to install flashing signs and install 40mph signage along Stane Street.
4. A liaison committee will be formed, similar to that of the Viridor plant, which will discuss all matters relating to Rolls Royce, and we will have 2 representatives.
5. We have made Rolls Royce, CDC and WSCC aware that we will not be steam rolled without so much as a 'by your leave' and that we want to be fully consulted in major matters of this kind. Rolls Royce are very supportive and would back a reduction to 30 mph.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both those in the parish council and those parishioners, who helped in formulating our representation in this application.

Finally I was pleased to say that the three major Goodwood happenings:- Festival of Speed, Glorious Goodwood and Revival meetings all seemed to have passed without any major problem.

Thank-you for all your support,

Henry Adams
Chairman Westhampnett Parish Council

Dates for your diary

Carol Singing



The Carol Singing is open to everyone to join in with their voices or by playing a musical instrument. Please join us, perhaps after we've sung to you if you wish.

Tuesday 19th December : Meet at 6pm at the Depot Cottages. **Carol Singing** at the Depot Cottages, Westhampnett Mill, The Sadlers and Westerton.

Wednesday 20th December : Meet at St Peter's at 6pm. **Carol Singing** at Maudlin and Westhampnett.

Friday 22nd December : **Carol Singing** at Sainsbury's, Westhampnett. 6-7pm

Saturday 23rd December : **Carol Singing** at Richmond Park. 6-8pm

Christmas Services



Sunday 17th December: **Carol Service** at 4pm.
After mulled wine, soft drinks and refreshments.

Saturday 23rd December: **Crib service** St Peters at 4pm

Christmas Eve : 9.45am Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Day : 9.45am Christmas Service

23rd April 2007 Next Parish Council meeting at March School at 7pm.

WSCC - Young Drivers' Skills Course

After a short break, the Young Drivers' Skills Course re-started in August this year and is due to continue until March 2009. This innovative one-day course, held at Goodwood Motor Circuit near Chichester, is aimed at 17-25 year olds who hold a full driving licence and either live or drive regularly on the roads in West Sussex. The course teaches some very important and potentially life-saving skills, including a practical on-road driving element with an Advanced Driving Instructor and practical training in skid-control on the Skid Pan at Goodwood. This particular age-group account for over 20% of all road traffic crashes; resulting in over 1,000 deaths every year in the UK. WSCC are aiming to help reduce this shocking statistic as part of the Public Service Agreement - if we can save just one life it will all have been completely worthwhile.

The course, which is greatly subsidised by WSCC costs just £60.00. We also offer the incentive of a drive in a Ferrari (to be taken on a separate day); this is available at an additional charge of only £60.00. Gift vouchers are available as this makes a fantastic present!

To obtain further details of the course or to make a booking, please call our hotline number on 08452 600 650.

Westhampnett Community Hall?



As mentioned by the Chairman of the Parish Council in the previous issue of this Newsletter there is an opportunity to provide a community hall for the parish.

Westhampnett does already have access to a hall, of course at the March School in Claypit Lane. But it has been found that this hall does have limitations for community use. The school's hall is not available during school time, has limited kitchen facilities, very poor acoustics and next to no storage. The possibility of altering the school hall to make good these deficiencies has been considered but the fundamental problems of a) unavailability in school hours and b) any improvements would involve extending the School Hall and increasing the school's footprint to an unacceptable level in relation to the total area of the school's grounds.

It has been proposed that whilst the school hall is ideal for many uses by the community such as sports, dances and similar large functions the parish would be best served by having a complementary facility within the bounds of the Westhampnett. What is proposed is a meeting hall that would be able to sit approximately 50 people at tables with a properly appointed kitchen and toilet facilities.

The community hall would be used for the meetings of the various groups that currently use the school hall and would provide the location for much wider use by the community such as mother and toddler coffee mornings, pilates classes, exhibitions etc. Oving and Boxgrove have recently built halls and have found that rapidly the community has found new ways of using it. Whilst Westhampnett is smaller than either of

these villages it has to be remembered that the population of Westhampnett is about to double with the development of the Claypit site and the Apollo Garage site.

Possible locations for a community hall within the parish have been considered. The school has been discounted because of the already limited amount of space available. The other possibilities are an acre of land to the west of the entrance to St. Peter's church and some land opposite the School in Claypit Lane. It is not known whether the Claypit Lane site would be available or at what cost. The land adjacent to the church would be available but again it is not known on precisely what terms. One advantage of this site is that it would be able to provide adequate parking and St. Peter's Church would be a regular user of the hall, in particular for its thriving but overflowing Sunday school that is currently crammed into a small area at the back of the church.

In part, what has prompted this proposed project has been the window of opportunity afforded by the availability of considerable funding. The developers of the Claypit Lane site are required to make available approximately £80,000 for community use. A community hall has been deemed to be an appropriate project for receiving this funding. Before any realistic project to build a community hall could move forward other funding would have to be found. We are advised that a prerequisite for applying for the various grants available for this sort of project is that the hall should have full planning permission and have full costings. This would be the next step in making the Community Hall a reality.

Mark Porter

Community Notes

There has been a great deal of discussion in this issue about the proposed community hall. We have discussed it at length at parish council meetings and now feel that it is time that we asked the community how they feel about a hall.

Please let us know about how you feel about the community hall-

- Do you feel that it will be of use?
- Do you think that it is in the right location?
- Would you like to become more involved in the fundraising/management of the hall?
- Is there anything else that you feel our community would benefit from?
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Remember, it's your community and we will work better if we all work together so let us know how you feel. Please let one of the parish councillors know or e-mail Mark Porter on mark@indinet.net or me on claire.mcleish@tiscali.co.uk.

It's great to see the new Police Community Support Officer on her rounds- a most welcome sight. Do say hello to her if you see her.

Rolls Royce have installed an owl nesting box in the coppices surrounding their site. Please keep away to encourage tawny owls to make it their home.

We have now purchased a badminton net and rackets and hope to have an evening of fun at the March towards the end of November. If you would like to join us, please call Ken or me- contact details on reverse.

Claire McLeish

A big thank-you to all those who signed the petition, protesting against the planning proposals by Rolls Royce. It was a huge undertaking and showed that the community does have a voice and will protest when need be. A huge thank-you to Andrew Blanchard, who spent a great deal of his time compiling the petition and knocking on doors. Well done.

Bob Holman

For Sale

Boy's bike- includes stabilizers. Very good condition. Suit upto 8 years old. £25 01243 779553

Child's bike seat- fixes on back of adult's bike- with seat belt. VGC £5 01243 779553

If you have any stories, articles, jokes, photographs or any comments about this issue, please send them to me at claire.mcleish@tiscali.co.uk or 01243 779553 by February 10th. We would also like to encourage regular contributors and would consider adverts.

Thanks once again to Rolls Royce for their support in publishing this newsletter.

Nature Watch

As I write this in early September, the season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us! Sloes, hips and haws are in abundance thanks to a good blossom set in May. Those of you who observe the comings and goings in the natural world would have noted blackthorn and hawthorn flowering at the same time, an event that I have rarely seen in my lifetime.

What a summer we've had, making up for a cold wet spring that spelt disaster for some species of butterflies. Hibernating small tortoiseshell and peacock emerging during April stood little chance of survival let alone a chance to breed, hence the lack of those species later in the year. We had a good hatch of ciinnarbar moths locally in early June, these pretty red and black insects have a very weak flight and can be seen during the day and evening. Their caterpillars feed on ragwort and display yellow and black warning colours as they absorb the plants poisons and are distasteful to birds.



During the sultry evenings in July, beetles took to the sky in quite large numbers over and around Westhampnett. They are spectacular insects in flight sounding like doodle bugs from another era. They often crash land against a window. One in particular went around one garden three times before it could gain enough height to get over the chimney pots. In late July, our parish was visited by a migrant from the Mediterranean lured here by our hot summer. They sip nectar from plants such as nicotianas and petunias using their 5" long proboscis and hovering like a miniature jump-jet taking on fuel. The convolulus hawk moth visits us in varying numbers depending on the season. A common sight this year has been the humming

bird hawk moth, another nectar sipping insect, seen darting from flower to flower.

August- the silent month has come and gone, so called because of the absence of birdsong. The robin is singing his melancholy autumn song, long tailed tits are once again flocking together and voles and dormice are gathering nuts and berries- a cache for future use.

Let's greet this season of mists and enjoy its fruitfulness.

Bob Holman

W.I.

We had a very successful Cream tea party in the summer raising funds for charity and the W.I We started our Autumn meeting with Mrs Sally Botwright, a blue badge guide talking on "Southwark". October was our annual meeting. Then in November, we have a talk on gemstones and jewelry. In December we have a Christmas musical entertainment.

Do come along and join us, we meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the March School.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please remember that members of the Parish Council can always be contacted on the telephone if there is anything going on in the Parish that gives you concern: -

Chairman of the Parish Council 01243 773513	Henry Adams
Vice-Chairman 01243 773897	Guy Knight
Parish Councillor 01243 786109	Ken Franklin
Parish Councillor 01243 782596	Peggy Wood
Parish Councillor 01243 789773	Mark Porter
Parish Councillor 01243 774381	Bob Holman
Parish Councillor 01243 779553	Claire McLeish
Clerk 01243 823520	Erika Benackova