

Views from Three Villages



Parish notes

The Parish Council meeting of 23rd April was fairly uneventful, being the last meeting before the elections.

It was preceded by a presentation by David Parker of Chichester Watersports Ltd who told us about the various improvements he is making to the facility in Coach Road. David is fully aware of the concerns of the parish as far as noise is concerned.

Following this presentation, the Annual Meeting of the Parish with Chairman's report, was dispatched in quick time as usual.

As a result of the election (or no-election in our case!) the parish council will comprise the same members for the next 4 years.

Our two councillors- Andrew Smith of CDC and Mike Hall of WSCC, both reported on matters of interest; Andrew reporting that the Lavant Straight is to be repaired shortly and that trees are to be planted at the entrance to the Waste disposal site. Mike informed us that discussions on the proposed National Park have been further delayed- now there's a surprise!! Flooding on the old A27 and local roundabouts have been noted by WSCC; traffic signs at Westhampnett still awaited. He also commented on the idea from Central government that local people should be allowed to control matters to a greater extent- we shall see!

Since the January Parish Council meeting, I have attended two Rolls Royce liaison meetings and one Aerodrome Consultation committee meeting. As was made clear in the recent Rolls Royce planning applications (last Autumn) no enlargement of the foot print of the assembly plant is intended but considerable changes will happen in the building to allow production to increase. Rolls

Royce wish to talk to local people about the future and I understand that all parishioners will be invited to Rolls Royce on June 19th to see what is planned.

The aerodrome does not seem to create any great problem- some helicopter nuisance. There are no plans to alter the situation or any major new buildings as far as I know. It was suggested at the meeting that anyone wishing to complain on any matter concerning the aerodrome, should ring the Control Tower on 01243 755061- this is direct.

I look forward to serving the parish for the next four years. Ideas needed on keeping the parish tidy- I know of some communities who organise once a week tidy-ups.

Any thoughts to me please.

Henry Adams
Chair
Westhampnett Parish Council

Community Notes

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 August 31st. We would also like to encourage regular contributors, whether young or old, short or long, serious or amusing. I'd love to see your contributions., the earlier the better.

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



'Raising (*money for*) the roof' is a phrase which, literally and spiritually, describes the happenings at St Peter's at present. It is true, that attention is being focussed upon the repairs to the roof and that money is being sought, but it is equally true that such focus is deepening the spiritual integrity of our lively community - raising the roof as we seek to offer worship and praise, love and neighbourliness worthy of the glory of God.

It is both exciting and hopeful to witness and be part of a community commingling the very young, children, youth, singles, couples, families, recently retired and the wisely matured, those used to church and those not, who participate in traditional Book of Common Prayer services, Parish Eucharists with Sunday school for both younger and older children; Family services, services inside and outside, at the Goodwood Motor track and at the March School. If this sounds breathless and just a little hectic, then actually it is not, for there is a relaxed and calm feel to the community which delights simply in gathering together in what ever guise or place. Such calmness complementing activity surely suggests that the Holy Spirit is about somewhere? Indeed, as I sat in our ancient church under its fragile roof listening to Richard Barnes (our maestro organist) and Mark Hartt-Palmer playing Dvorák's Violin Sonatina in G and Elgar's Violin Sonata in E minor, the collective joy rippling through Dvorák's Sonatina nestling next to the deep and personal emotion exercising its way out of Elgar's Sonata, seemed to me to sound the tone for our community life. Such a coming together, our individual and collective journeys, is what repairs roofs and in doing so says to future generations, 'We cared for your journey, too, as we cared for and nurtured our own.' Incidentally, the concert raised

£586.00 towards the roof appeal! Which goes to show that money need not be the root of all evil when money itself is not the 'root'. The community is the root and money that spills out of community often stems from a richness that is not simply fiscal, but faithful and loving.

The future generation can certainly teach us how to 'raise the roof'. The St Peter's Ascension Day Eucharist was held at the March School and it was very kind of the children and staff not only to invite us into the school, but also to show us how to sing! Those children can sing and they quite clearly enjoy themselves as they do so, any roof would be in danger if it attempted to put a lid on such sound! Thank you for a memorable and uplifting service of thanksgiving, I very much hope that the future will see more such ventures.



Likewise, the Sponsored Cycle Ride at the Goodwood Motor Circuit. We had a lovely service in the Garden of Remembrance, gathering on picnic blankets, chairs and benches in beautiful sunshine, watching one or two

planes take to the skies as we hoped our prayers would. It was followed by a slightly more energetic cycle around the circuit - with more than a handful of lazy lunches interrupting persistent pedalling (it's that calmness complementing activity again) and ended in the afternoon with the raffle being drawn and the editor of this magazine winning a flight in a Tiger Moth! Thank you to all who took part and for those who organised this event and to the management at Goodwood who were so helpful and free with their time: it was truly wonderful. And the monies are still being counted.

It has been a real joy for me and my family to wander into St Peter's as we progress along our own pilgrim trail (St Peter's was

an official stopping point along the pilgrim way to St Richard's shrine at the Cathedral). To open the door into history and to find the stability of hundreds of years of Christian faith echoing through the walls and in the rafters, but also to find the lively tune of history in the making in the joys and aspirations of the present community, leads me to think and pray that we will 'raise (*the money for*) the roof' and get a whole lot more into the bargain. Why not come and join in? Indeed, why not think to come along at 10.45 am on 1st July for our Patronal Festival, followed by BBQ and all the trimmings? Why not, it's good for your soul!

Fr James

Dates for your diary

- 10th June** 9.45 Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
- 17th June** 8.00 BCP Communion
9.45 Family Service
- 24th June** 9.45 Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
- 29th June St Peter 's Day** 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- Wednesday 13th June 'A Man's faith...'** 7.30pm at The Vicarage.
An invitation for men to discuss having faith in today's world.
- Tuesday 19th June 'Churchyard evening'.** Please bring gardening tools, gloves, rubbish bags and lots of enthusiasm!
- Saturday 23rd June 'An Evening with the Domans'** Songs from the Shows - a concert in aid of the Roof Appeal. 7.30 pm at the March School, we hope!
- Friday 29th June The March School Summer Fete.** 3.30 pm. Please come along and support!

Nature Watch

February fill dyke, March winds, April showers and May flowers, rhymes we learnt as children almost a child's guide to the months weather patterns. This year we have had April flowers and May showers, global warming! or, just mother nature keeping us guessing. April was a month of mixed fortunes for nesting birds. No cold or squally showers to chill nestlings, no strong winds to destroy nests, but by the third week worms had burrowed deep in



the earth and were unobtainable even to the earliest bird. Slugs and snails the main pray of thrushes had also taken refuse from the unseasonably hot weather, I found 18 all glued together in a pile of old bricks in our garden. The diet of many young birds this spring was supplemented by wetted rolled oats and chopped raisins from our bird table. Hawthorn blossom around the hedgerows was short lived this year as were the bluebells. Butterflies such as holly blues, brimstones and red admirals could be seen in good numbers around the parish. I hear the first chiff chaff in Westhampnett on the 16th March, swallows on the 27th March and swifts on the 26 April about a week earlier than usual. The oak was in leaf 10 days ahead of the ash this year so according to the old country saying we should only get a splash this summer, so far I would say it has been honours even.

Every few weeks I make a point of looking over the gravel pit which is now home to Chichester Watersports. For many years I counted wild fowl on the Chichester lakes for the WFO so have always taken an interest in what's around. Before the water reached its present level large numbers of pochard, shoveller, teal and mallard would over winter there with small numbers of gadwall. Winters still bring in small numbers of wild fowl mainly tufted ducks and pochard with the occasional great crested and

little grebes. Mute swan and Canada geese are regular visitors as are cormorants. In summer common and arctic terns grace the skies with their presence while martins and swifts feed late into the evening. Let's hope June lives up to its reputation with long warm summer evenings and the smell of bbqs in the air.

Watersports in Westhampnet

Chichester Watersports Centre based at the Westhampnet Lake



gave a presentation to the Westhampnet Parish Council at their Annual meeting on the 23rd April at the Primary School.

David Parker, a partner of the company outlined the activities that are available to local residents at the centre. Chichester Watersports offer Wakeboarding, Water Skiing, Windsurfing, Kayaking and Open Canoe tuition and training - they offer a complete and varied service available from novice standard through to the most experienced of enthusiast.

Individual Adults, Children, Youth Groups and Local Schools take part in the water activities, all events are fully insured and all Staff have CRB checks undertaken by the Police authorities. Professional and fully qualified tutors are on hand during sessions and safety craft are out on the water to ensure that everyone enjoys the experience to the full.

Currently, Chichester Watersports operate from a mixture of purpose built and temporary 'portakabin' buildings, they are planning to upgrade the current facilities to include toilets and

secure changing facilities with disabled access. Chichester Watersports stated that they will consult with both the Parish Council and nearby residents in order to provide buildings that are in keeping with the area and unobtrusive to the eye.

Councillors expressed concern over possible noise from the powerboat activities on the lake, David Parker assured those present that the ski boats have fully silenced inboard engines making these craft very neighbour friendly, unlike the older outboard motors that were noisy in their operation.

David added that it had been proven that the use of ski boats on the lake promoted the wildlife habitat as the craft aerated the water and cleared the lake of weed in the process, but as they operated away from the banks and shallow water this still allowed refuge areas for wildlife and plants.

Chichester Watersports provide an on-site shop including licensed Café and extend a warm invitation to residents to enjoy a coffee and a snack whilst watching the water activities from the elevated lakeside patio. The centre has free parking for cars and offers secure cycle parking.

The Pilgrims at St.Peters Church

My class and I went to St.Peter's church, and we were looking at the marks and symbols what the pilgrims did. They came from The Chichester Cathedral, to worship St.Richard. We think that they were leaving a message to others.

St. Peters is a church and I oldest part



message

very old
found the
which is

Saxon and is just outside the door on the right. We also looked at the graveyards and found a bishop had been buried there and a cricketer.

By Ewan McLeish

The Lavant Valley Partnership

May 2007

Physically and economically impractical to deliver to all the 68 parishes within the Chichester District Council area on a one-to-one basis, the Council decided in 1999 to improve communication to, and feedback from parish councils, by arranging presentations to six (now five after a merger in the north) groups of adjoining parishes on a geographical basis and/or sharing similar local problems. The purpose was then, as now, to alert and prepare parishes to changing and proposed new legislation from the Council's leading executives and give parishes as much time as possible to inform, challenge, oppose or mitigate the effects of proposed changes within their communities.

The Lavant Valley Partnership was established early on because of a shared and recurring problem of serious flooding by the River Lavant of low-lying areas of the river from East Dean through Singleton, West Dean, Lavant, Westhampnett, (Chichester) and on to the sea. In addition to these, other parishes within the Lavant Valley Partnership are Boxgrove, Eartham, Upwaltham and Tangmere.

Good, well presented meetings are held four times a year at parishes with an appropriate hall volunteering their facilities as needed. Usually there are three topics for presentation, with excellent overheads, starting at 7pm and finishing promptly at 9pm. The meetings are overseen by Richard Bridgland, Electronic Govt. Manager and his boss Rob Benny, CDC Deputy Chief Exec. Most speakers are senior District Council officers, but occasionally they are from outside agencies. Usually, when

available, Mid-Sussex Police District Commander Chris Ball gives an update of police matters and concerns about the latest crime trends. Bob Holman and I try and attend all meetings and the tendency is to see the same regular group of chairmen and councilors at most meetings. The exchanges between presenters and parish councils can get quite heated! Bob and I believe this is a much undervalued service which deserves much greater support from all participating parishes and their councilors; we cannot hope to convey in 5 minutes at our next parish meeting what took 90 minutes to present three months earlier!

The April meeting at West Dean was preceded by Police DC Ball warning all householders, especially the elderly or those living alone, that there had been a significant increase in house burglary in this area generally by 1) meter readers not showing identity cards/ authority (or false identification) to gain access and 2) two-man teams using diversionary tactics to gain access and rob. He added that a new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), Jason Lenn has been trained to take over the good work and duties of the previous officer, 'Mo', who has moved to High School duties. One of Jason's first jobs will be to get to know his patch, be seen and meet local people, learn about their concerns and community problems, and gain their confidence. His area covers Lavant, Westhampnett, Singleton and the 'Deans'!. We welcome his presence around the parishes and his attendance at our future parish council meetings.

The meeting continued with three topics which produced much greater councillors participation and enjoyable exchanges than usual:-

1) The 'Smoke free England' regulations in public places order due to become effective 01/07/07. This extends the previous regs. premises covering public places, hotels, shops and transport and goes a long way to protect non-smokers in 'grey' areas such as entrances, lobbies, corridors and toilets and other locations which

smokers have resorted to for a quick 'drag'. Red and white A4 or A5 'No smoking' warning signs are required to be displayed at all entrances to shops and other public places and Simon Ward with overall responsibility for West Dean House and College was concerned that such ugly signs should not be needed at such establishments where a No -smoking policy has been in operation for many years.

2) An 'Improving energy efficiency in the Chichester District' presentation pointed out all the energy saving measures now available to everyone and especially important with the cost of fuel and electricity and the real threat of Global Warming. The savings possible in the winter are all to do with energy conservation ie full-depth loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, reducing heat loss with double/triple glazing, eliminating draughts, efficient boilers, insulation of hot water cylinders and pipework etc. Information about grants and who is eligible can be obtained from Nicola Winsor, CDC Energy Efficiency Officer (01243 534854)

3) The 'Council's Village Shop Programme' was an interesting talk by two presenters who have successfully helped rurally isolated communities without a local convenience store to set up one of their own. Clearly this does not apply to Westhampnett but there are communities of a size that does not attract a local 'Tesco's' but frequent travel to a big supermarket or someone else'e corner shop is not convenient. It sounded a very interesting and rewarding project for those prepared to take it on.

Ken Franklin.

WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH CLERK

Miss Erika Benackova, Flat 12, 4 Queens Square, Glamis Street, Bognor Regis PO21 1SA

Tel: 01243 823520 Email: erika0881@btinternet.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL

Members Code of Conduct and Public Registers

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its meeting on 14 May 2007 the Council resolved to adopt with immediate effect a replacement Code of Conduct which sets out the conduct which is expected of Councillors and Co-opted Members of the Council.

Members have completed registers of their financial and other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct and the Registers of Interests can be inspected by the public at Flat 12, 4 Queens Square, Glamis Street, Bognor Regis by appointment.

Signed
Miss E. Benackova
Clerk of Westhampnett Parish Council
Flat 12
4 Queens Square
Glamis Street
Bognor Regis
PO21 1SA

Dated 15th day of May 2007

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