



LOXWOOD Parish Council ~ Newsletter ~

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A big thank you to Loxwood's Shopkeepers: The snow at the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010 showed us all, more than ever, the value of our local shops. When many residents were snowed in, or unwilling to travel, the fact that we could all still keep ourselves in supplies shows all credit to our shopkeepers, and they are to be congratulated for keeping going. What is essential however, is that they are supported throughout the year, or they might not be there next time there is a crisis.

FARM CLOSE

The Parish Council has just been notified of a proposal by Cascade Rural Housing Solutions Ltd to build 10 affordable housing units on land south of the Doctors' Surgery. The application includes land designated on the site plan for a future Pre-School. The site is outside the Settlement Policy Area (SPA) of Loxwood but Local Plan policy H9 dictates policies which apply for the provision of Social Housing in the Rural Area and allows such an 'exception' site. According to the Rural Housing Enabling Officer, there is an identified need for 27 units within the Loxwood area of which the Hall House Farm (HHF) site only provides 8. Unlike HHF, these units do not form part of a greater site of mixed units: i.e. both 'affordable' and properties for sale at market rate.

In order to come to the best decision as to how to deal with the application, the Parish Council has held meetings with CDC Planning Department (and agreed for an extension to the deadline for comment to allow people to make their feelings known), the Rural Housing Enabling Officer (to understand the need for more affordable homes in Loxwood at this time). The PC has also sought advice from an independent Town Planner.

Should you wish to view the plans or make a comment, the planning application number is LX/09/04816/FUL. You will need to access the CDC site and follow the links to the Planning Portal. The deadline is the 10th March 2010.

Precept 2010/11: The Budget sub-committee spent a long time drafting the Budget for 2010/11 as it was felt that given the current economic climate there should be no increase in the precept.

The Parish Council continues to have regular commitments as well as offering financial assistance to the North Hall renovations.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All local residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Loxwood, which will be held at 7:30pm Tuesday 27th April in the North Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood. Tea and biscuits will be available from 7pm and after the meeting.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Alison Sanderson, will preside. It is intended that the whole event will close no later than 9pm.

The formal part of the evening will consist of the Chairman's report on the Parish Council's activities over the year, a financial report and a short question and answer session.

District and County Councillors will be invited to attend, and they will no doubt be interested to hear of any local matters which might concern them.

Local organisations and Societies will be invited to attend and publicise their activities with displays in the Hall.

SPEEDWATCH

Matters have been progressing slowly but surely behind the scenes. As with everything these days, there is an assault course of rules and regulations to pass through before the Speed Indicator Devices can be used. A number of meetings have taken place with the Police, and those who volunteered back in September, have been contacted. Should you wish to become part of the team, please contact the Parish Clerk. At the time of going to print, Sussex Police have verified a number of sites for us to use. These sites have to then be given the all clear by WSC Highways. Hopefully this will take place soon.

Hopefully you will have been aware of increased Police activity in and around Loxwood. The PC has been assured that speeding motorists will continue to be targeted. Unfortunately two of the motorists caught speeding by the Police during their last visit were actually Loxwood residents!

May we also remind you about Operation Crackdown. The contact details are: www.operationcrackdown.org Should you prefer not to contact the Police directly, you can give the details to Cllr Wendy Andrews on: wendy.n.andrews@googlemail.com or 01403 752170 or by letter to her at New House, Guildford Road.

ROAD DISRUPTION

You cannot fail to have been affected by the disruption caused by the digging of the storm drain and associated works linked to the Hall House Farm site. Of especial concern has been the partial blocking of the footpath by the safety fencing. At one point the concrete feet of the fencing stuck out across the pavement to such an extent that pushchairs and wheelchairs could not fit, and so were forced into the road. Of equal concern was the potential hazard to anyone with limited eyesight. CDC Cllr John Andrews spent a considerable amount of time contacting the various bodies to get the matter sorted out. The contractors have subsequently been fined.

Added to the misery has been the state of the roads due to mud and debris

Again the Parish Clerk has been in constant contact with WSC Highways to ensure that road cleaners were called in.

At the time of going to print, the contractors assured us that the works would be completed by the 1st March. They had a 2 week delay due to the snow.

CANAL PARAPETS

All of you will have read in the Loxwood Society's December Newsletter that there was a change of heart by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust Council of Management and it has been agreed to change the design to be submitted for planning permission for the modified parapets. The proposal is that the main ones will be replaced with brick-faced concrete to 1m with a light rail at 0.4m above while the short side parapet facing the Onslow will be cut down to 1m and remain metal but screened by hedges along the rail fence above it. The new design is expected to meet the relevant vehicle impact and other safety regulations whilst looking more in keeping with the surroundings. An application for cut down metal parapets would be a better financial option from WACT's point of view. However their Council of Management has agreed to meet our wishes as far as practicable.

You will appreciate that these changes will all cost a considerable amount of money. WACT has already put nearly half the cost into the pot from existing funds and, now, in conjunction with the Parish Council and The Loxwood Society is in the process of starting to raise the rest of the amount needed. The last thing Loxwood needs at this time is to have a second fund raising exercise (North Hall's already being undertaken), however, the reality of the situation is that if we really want the parapets to change then we will all need to help. There will be a targeted Fund Raising Initiative in the coming months and, in the meantime, the possibility of grants from a number of sources is being looked into.

LOXWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL – building bridges with the village

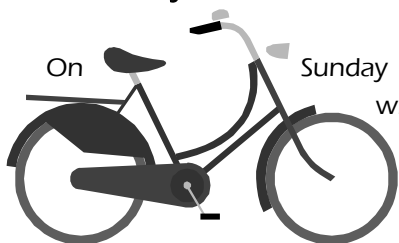
One of our priorities within the School is to develop closer links with our vil-

lage. In so doing, we are able to provide the children with local opportunities to gain a practical understanding of the issues they learn about in the classroom, which helps to reinforce the lessons learned.

In return, we earnestly hope that the village community can enjoy the enthusiasm and zest for life that we see in our young children.

At the moment, Loxwood School children are actively involved in helping to raise funds for the North Hall fund raising effort and in developing the Loxwood Community Garden Initiative. These projects help the children to understand the importance of the local environment, in addition to making a difference to their learning of the basic subjects of maths, literacy and science. We believe that it is vital to give this contextual feel to their learning.

Dates for your diaries



On Sunday 23rd May, we are holding a Bike Fund Day, to which you would be very welcome. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been running this very successfully for many years and, as a result, we have decided to extend it to the community.

We meet at the School in the morning and set off on our bikes on a cross country course that takes in a lot of the gorgeous countryside around the village and the local area. Whole families turn out for the event to enjoy the exercise and the camaraderie. We return to the School for a well deserved John Murray burger and the odd can of amber nectar to quench the thirst!

If you would like to join us, please let us know so that we can make sure we order sufficient burgers.

The School's Summer Fair will be held on Friday 18th June, starting at 6.00pm and going on until it starts to get dark some time after 9.00pm. For those who have not been before, this is where you will have the opportunity to enjoy the excitement and fun that comes from seeing young children gathered together at play. Please do pop in if you get the chance.

A New Heart for the Village



THE 'TEMPERATURE' IS RISING!!!!

REFEFURBISHMENT FUND REACHES £155,000

The fundraising thermometer on North Hall, Loxwood is rising !!! Loxwood Parish Council has generously given a further £52,000 to add to their earlier award of £15,000 from the Bewley Homes development, a Community Initiative grant of £1,000 has been received from West Sussex CC and Billingshurst Lions have kindly donated £1,000. This brings the total funds now raised to some £155,000, approaching 50% of the required target!!!!!!

With just three months of fundraising under their belts, the Fundraising Committee have also raised some £3,000 in the local community, but they desperately need more volunteers to help with the work. If you'd like to join this small enthusiastic team, please contact:

Jean Spira Tel: 01403 752534 Email: jeanspira@freeuk.com

In the latest of a series of community fundraising events planned for 2010, a fantastic £1300 was raised in one week in January from the third in the monthly series of Jazz and Blues evenings and a Best of British Quiz night. These events are now very popular and sell out quickly so please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be bought in the village store. For details of forthcoming events watch out for posters around the village and visit <http://www.loxwoodvillagehall.org.uk/Fundraising.html>

The 100 Club monthly draw also continues to be very popular but there are still numbers available so if you would like to join please call: **Pat Winney on: 01403 752377.**

A rejuvenated North Hall will provide a facility where a real feeling of common community can flourish. The proposed refurbishment is what is wanted and it is

good to see people enthusiastically coming together over a positive development in the village.

Registered Charity No. 207700

THE RE-OPENING OF DEVIL'S HOLE LOCK

A foretaste of the day's events

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust (WACT) will be naming *Josias Jessop* and re-commissioning Devils Hole Lock on Saturday 17 April.

The intention is to have ceremonies to mark these two milestones in the Trust's progress and to thank those who have helped to make it possible. The Canadian High Commission has accepted our invitation to send a strong delegation on the day. The connection with Canada is that it was Canadian army engineers who blew up the Lock as a rehearsal for the Dieppe raid. The weather will, no doubt, be April showers.

'Josias Jessop' is WACT's recently acquired trip boat. She will be named at Loxwood Lock at 11:30. The VIP party will then go in the 'Zachariah Keppel' to Devils Hole Lock while the spectators walk up there along the towpath. A section of the Guildford Friary Band should greet us at Devils Hole Lock with cheerful music. A local firm, which WACT engaged for the bridge opening in 2009, will provide the public-address system so everyone should be able to hear at both Loxwood Lock and at Devils Hole.

The re-commissioning ceremony at Devils Hole Lock will be at noon. The VIP will cut a ribbon to 'open' the lock again – 68 years after it was blown up in 1942 and some 129 years after the canal was abandoned in 1871. The VIP party will then go to the bridge over the tail of the lock for speeches, before everyone is invited for drinks-and-nibbles at the nearby gazebo. There will be a display of Morris dancing at 12:45. The Trust would like to invite everyone to the event.

Sally Schupke Chairman



LOXWOOD COMMUNITY GARDENS INITIATIVE



Hopefully we are now out of hibernation, work is pushing ahead on the Community woodland area at North Hall. We have had a fantastic turnout to our two work parties to date, when we have managed to clear a vast area of overgrown, neglected woodland in readiness to start planting our Community Orchard based on old, forgotten varieties of Sussex apple trees such as Dr Hogg, raised at Leonards Lee, Horsham, in about 1880, Lady Sudeley, raised in about 1849 by a cottager called Jacob in Petworth and many other varieties such as Crawley Beauty, Egremont Russet, Sussex Mother, Golden Pippin, Forge and Mannington Pearmain.

We already have a number of young children who come along with their parents who are having a fantastic fun time as well as developing their knowledge of nature and their environment. So far, the children have built a den out of branches in the woodland, assisted with the clearing up of the wood and have seen a Stag Beetle hotel being constructed along with log piles, brushwood heaps, which are all designed to add to the diversity of the area.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 13 February Work Party at North Hall clearing more woodland from 9am onwards. This will include tea, coffee and biscuits.

Saturday 6 March: Work Party at North Hall to start planting the Community Orchard from 9am onwards. Tea, coffee and biscuits.

Sunday 11 April: A Work Party for the adults and a structured activity morning for the children.

Friday 16 April: A Social Evening when we will share our vision for the Community Gardens plus a very interesting talk by Simon Thornton Wood, Director of Science and Education at RHS Wisley. This will include refreshments. More details to follow on this.

We would love to involve more people from within the village, if you are interested, just turn up at one of our work parties or call Graham Moore on :751722

FOOTBALL MINI WORLD CUP



Harnessing the enthusiasm generated by the FIFA World Cup being staged in South Africa this year, the District Council have established their very own Football Mini World Cup programme! The scheme invites local primary schools to adopt a country participating in the real Football World Cup and take part in their own fun competition. Each school will design their own kit, learn about other cultures, and receive lessons on respect and sportsmanship, healthy living, and bullying. Free football coaching sessions for the pupils will also allow the players to prepare for the football tournament being held at Loxwood Sports Association Recreation Ground on Wednesday March 24th 2010 starting at 10.00am.

This event will feature colourful opening and closing ceremonies and spectators are more than welcome!

Football in the Community Holiday Course

Thursday 8th April 2010, 10.00am - 3.00pm. Loxwood Sports Association Recreation Ground. For boys and girls aged 6-15 years. £5 per child
The Courses cover all footballing abilities. They will focus on all round player development, individual and unit skills, and most importantly, on having fun! All coaches are FA qualified and have received CRB checks for child safety.

For further details please contact:

Ben Polhill, Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer, CDC on:
01243 534857 / bpolhill@chichestergov.uk

Forthcoming Village Events:

Jazz Club: 16th March, 20th April, 18th May

Annual Village Fair: June 5th Much help will be required, but in the meantime please put 5th June 2010 in your diaries.

LOXWOOD SOCIETY

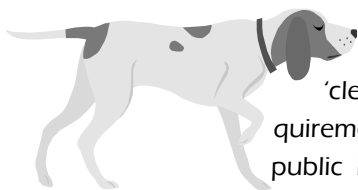
The Society has been heavily involved with the Parish Council on the issue of the canal bridge parapets which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter. The Society believes the compromise solution reached with the Canal Trust is an opportunity to remove an unpleasant eyesore from a very sensitive part of the village. The brick faced parapets will go a long way in restoring the traditional environment at the entrance to the village.

The Society has been preparing material for a potential grant from the district council and aims, with the Parish Council, to launch an appeal to all local residents in the coming weeks.

It is sincerely hoped that the energy that was put into the huge response to the village petition at the end of 2008 has not waned and people will give generously to the appeal when the time comes.

More recently the Society has learnt of the intention to build 10 local needs houses in Farm Close next to the Surgery. Effort is being applied to understand this sudden proposal and ensure that all is done to ensure the development is necessary or at least, when built, is compatible with the local environment.

Message from the CDC Dog Control Officer



All dog owners in the village of Loxwood should be aware that it is a legal obligation to 'clean up' after their dogs have defecated. The requirement to do so is applicable virtually everywhere the public have access: roads, pavements, verges, footways, churchyards, recreation grounds etc.

A number of complaints regarding dog fouling have come to notice recently where a number of dog walkers/owners have failed to comply with their obligation. Their total disregard for other residents and visitors is apparent and sadly reflects on all dog owners. The footways leading to the School have been brought to my attention and the footpath adjacent to the Canal, which checked on my last visit, was a disgrace.

How can Parishioners help? It does seem that prosecution is the only course of action with some individuals. However to proceed along this avenue it is necessary for a witness to provide a statement to support an action. The action can be a Court appearance or a fixed penalty option (currently £50). Magistrates can impose a maximum fine of £1000. Local residents witness more incidents than anyone by virtue of their residency, however in my experience very few throughout Chichester District will take that step forward. Dog Control Officers understand the need for anonymity in some cases. If notified that an individual is not complying and they feel that an advisory visit from a warden would suffice the resident's identity would NOT be revealed to the offended.

For information, The Dogs (fouling of land) Act, 1996 has disappeared and The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act is in force. Basically as far as dog fouling is concerned it remains the same although the fixed penalty charge almost doubles. What is interesting is that it affords Parish Councils the opportunity to introduce dog control orders where it is felt that the parish communities would benefit locally. These orders can include 'no go' areas for dogs, 'dogs on leads' in designated areas and others.

Finally, THANK YOU to those dog walkers who are complying with legislation and a WARNING to those who are not. 'Buck up, clean up or pay up', a parishioner may be watching. It will be no inconvenience to me whatsoever to visit Loxwood at any time to issue a fixed penalty or interview with a view to Court appearance.

John Rosser, Senior Dog Control Officer, Chichester District Council

Telephone: 01243 534618 (Out of hours: 01243 785339)



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

There are 9 Members of the Parish Council: Alison Sanderson (Chairman), Charlie Whitmarsh (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Andrews, Elizabeth Dugdale, Ann Kersey, Sarah Lane, Scott Taylor, Howard Thomas and David Townsend.

The Parish Clerk is Jenny Hartley. 88, Rusper Road, Horsham RH12 4BN, e-mail: loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk If you wish to contact the Parish Council, please address all correspondence, whether letter or e-mail, to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council minutes and agendas are available from the Clerk, preferably by e-mail, or on the Loxwood village website: www.loxwood.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Chichester District Council: East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY. Tel: 01243 785166. **Website:** www.chichester.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ. Tel: 01243 777100. **Website:** www.westsussex.gov.uk
24-hour information line: 0845 758 1232.

Countryside services, footpaths, bridleways: 01243 777620.

Highways repairs and maintenance, pavements, grass cutting:
01243 642105.

Police: emergencies: 999, non-emergencies: 08456070999.
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

Newsletter articles: any local clubs or societies who would like to publicise their activities, or individuals wishing to submit articles for the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk: loxwoodpc@live.co.uk We reserve the right to edit material, and we cannot accept political material.

Advertising: any businesses wishing to advertise in the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk by email: loxwoodpc@live.co.uk

