



## LOXWOOD Parish Council ~ Newsletter ~

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

As you may remember, Peter Evans our Parish Clerk for the past three years, suffered a major heart failure at the beginning of February. Thankfully he is now recovering well, but has felt it necessary to resign from his post. Peter has always been a vital member of Loxwood Parish Council, bringing a wealth of experience as well as patience and a sense of humour to his role. His network of contacts has proved vital to the activities of the Parish Council as has his relationship with other Parish Clerks. Peter has always been a popular figure around the village, and I am sure you will all join in our best wishes for his retirement.

Members of the Parish Council have all taken on as much extra work as they can, but as you can imagine it has been a herculean task, and one which has impacted on their valuable free time. Following Peter's resignation, efforts have been made to find a replacement, and we would hope to have a new Clerk in place by the autumn.

Despite the lack of a Clerk, the business of the Parish Council has continued as usual. A meeting has been held at the beginning of each month to look at a variety of matters, including: planning applications, the potential impact of the Dunsfold Park application, concerns by residents regarding the speed of traffic along Drungewick Lane, as well as the concerns over the possibility of the lane being altered so that it is no longer open from one end to the other to through traffic.

The Parish Council is in the final stages of buying the overgrown piece of land at the edge of Willets Way and Station Road, after a lot of legal wrangling over the exact status of the footpath. Hillreed have sold the land to the PC for the nominal fee of £1.00. As soon as everything is finalised the PC will ensure that the land is cleared and maintained.

## FLOODING

**Flooding last year** was a nuisance for many of us, but devastating for those of the village that live in or around the Loxwood Stream, whose properties were inundated. It has been brought to our attention, and to that of the Environment Agency, that some residents are using the local streams and ditches as a convenient dumping ground for their garden refuse. Can we ask that the few who are doing this, please stop, as your lack of consideration is having a terrible knock on effect for others. If you are having problems in disposing of your garden refuse, you can join the new Green Bin Composting Service offered by Chichester District Council.

For further details visit the Chichester District Council website at:  
[www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4182](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4182)

Or contact the Environmental Strategy Unit on:  
**01243 785 166**

We are also in consultation with the Environment Agency over the clearing of roadside ditches to try to prevent a repeat of last year.

## HEDGES

**Overgrown hedges** are once again proving a nuisance to pedestrians, and to road users at junctions. Could owners of properties with such hedges please cut them back, otherwise West Sussex County Council will deal with them and charge you.

## TACKLING CRIME NOT CHASING STATISTICS - The Chief Constable:

**Despite doing well** in the Police league tables, the Chief Constable of Sussex has decided to stop worrying about setting overall targets and to concentrate on tackling crime...

"Sussex Police has achieved real and continuing performance improvements over recent years. Detection rates have risen, and burglaries are running at historically low levels. So it is from a position of some strength that we are now able to look a little more closely at our 'performance culture' and check that it doesn't sometimes get in the way of providing the service you want . . . and that we want to provide.

I have been widely quoted as saying that I don't want my staff to be 'chasing numbers for numbers' sake'. So what do I mean?

Our Force targets this year still challenge us to improve our detection rate where it matters most. They are designed to encourage my staff not to be tempted to

focus too much on what might be seen as 'easy' detections, but to concentrate on the crimes that people really care about – like burglary, domestic abuse, and serious violent and sexual offences.

They also challenge us to go on reducing levels of crime in Sussex – all crime – and to play our part in reducing the number of people that are killed or seriously injured on Sussex roads this year. Tackling anti-social behaviour remains high on our agenda too.

We will continue to fight crime and deal robustly with anti-social behaviour. But there must be a common-sense approach. I do not want my officers to be hamstrung by an over-zealous obsession with chasing numbers and performance targets.

Their service to you is what really counts, and I see it as my role as Chief Constable to provide them with the leadership and direction to do so. And part of this is to do what I can to remove any unnecessary and bureaucratic obstacles that stand in the way of their doing what remains a difficult, challenging and sometimes dangerous job to the very best of their ability.

We detect crime by thorough investigations that earn the confidence of the victims and witnesses we deal with. We reduce crime by tackling the criminals who harm our communities.

That's why catching criminals and cutting crime are two sides of the same coin. We must do both, because we want to keep Sussex safe, finding lasting solutions to local problems. And not because we're chasing statistics."

Martin Richards, Chief Constable, Sussex Police



## WAY & ARUN CANAL TRUST

**As you will have noticed**, the road has reopened to all types of vehicles. The contractor still has to do some drain connections, tarmac, hand rails and general completion work. There is yet more to do to connect the new lock on the Onslow pound and to open the footway under the bridge. This is supported on piers from the bridge wall, so that the water displaced by the boat's hull during the passage of the bridge has an area in which to dissipate, and so not throw up a large bow wave or need excessive power to overcome the increased resistance.

The majority of the building work for the new lock is complete. Still to be installed are the gates and their sills, whilst the first pump for the back pumping system arrangements for water conservation, turving and a seat have been installed.

## DUNSFOLD PARK

**As you will be aware**, a planning application was recently proposed for the existing site of Dunsfold Park, consisting of 2600 dwellings and associated infrastructure. As the area lies within the Waverly Borough, rather than Chichester District, we were not specifically required to comment on the proposal. However, following the Parish Council meeting in June, it was decided that a formal letter of objection would be written as the development would be likely to have an adverse effect upon local residents. Areas of objection include:

Increased traffic through Loxwood and the surrounding area; the original agreement stating the land was to revert back to agricultural usage; flooding on the A281 which would be exacerbated by the extra buildings; damage to the ecosystem and biodiversity of the site; the danger that houses would be built before sufficient infrastructure was in place, as well as the obvious visual impact.

At the time of going to press, no final decision had been made on the application.

## BILLINGSHURST COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (BILLILINKS)

**We are looking for more volunteer drivers.** If you have time on your hands please call and speak to Lynne Murray - the scheme's co-ordinator. Lynne will tell you what is involved and how the scheme works. That said, your biggest reward is knowing you are helping someone in your local area who may be less fortunate than yourself.

The scheme currently provides community transport for around 400 residents of Billingshurst, Ifold, Kirdford, Plaistow and Shipley, with almost 5000 journeys carried out each year.

Since the launch in October 2003 we have carried out trips to: Horsham, Chichester, Crawley, Bognor and Worthing. These have included essential hospital appointments, shopping, banking, and visits to dentists, doctors and opticians.

Passengers are picked up at the appointed time and taken to their destination by private car. If they need to travel in a wheelchair they will be taken in an accessible vehicle owned by the scheme, and fitted with an electric hoist. For medical appointments a companion travels free of charge.

We urgently need drivers in the Loxwood area to enable people to attend the local surgery, other medical appointments and carry out essential shopping journeys. We would dearly love to assist the parishioners of Loxwood but for the moment cannot do so due to a lack of driver support.

**If you can help by doing some driving, no matter what your availability, please call Billingshurst Community Transport on 01403-787696.**

## BILLILINKS (VILLAGES TRANSPORT LINK WEST)

**This new transport service** provides a link to other local villages and communities, access to shops, countryside attractions, leisure facilities, doctors, chemists, clubs, adult education and evenings out. It is provided by helpful and friendly licensed drivers in modern comfortable vehicles. There are four journeys on Mondays and Wednesdays, six journeys on Fridays and five journeys on Saturdays. This service is available to everyone and covers the following villages west of Billingshurst - Newpound Common, Roundstreet Common, Kirdford, Wisborough Green, Plaistow Ifold & Loxwood.

### Timetable

					Friday/Saturday only	Friday only
Departs Billingshurst	10am	12 noon	2pm	4pm	6pm	10pm
Arrives in Billingshurst	10.45am	12.45pm	2.45pm	4.45pm	6.45pm	10.45pm

From Billingshurst there are links to villages further afield – Barns Green, Brooks Green, Dragons Green, Shipley, Whitehall, Broomers Corner, Ingrams Furze, Coolham and Coneyhurst

### Fares

There is a standard fare of £2 per person per single journey, reducing to £1.80 per person if two share, £1.50 for three sharing and £1.30 for four people. To take advantage of the shared journey fares, passengers should book their journey at the same time and get on or off together at the same place.

### How To Book

Telephone the Travel Centre on 01730 815518 between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday (note that the Booking Line is closed between 12 noon and 1pm on Saturdays only).

Register at the time of your first booking, when you will be given a membership number, which you can use on future bookings

All journeys must be booked by 4pm the day before you wish to travel

Please tell the Travel Centre if you require a child seat or you need to store anything in the boot e.g. folding wheelchair, pushchair or luggage etc

## B2133

**A considerable number of residents** have contacted the PC with regard to trying to get HGV's over 7.5 tonnes permanently prevented from driving through the village. The PC has in fact been actively pursuing the matter despite the lack of encouragement from West Sussex County Council. We have been told that we have been put on a list for future assessment by the County Local Committee.

If you are concerned about the noise and danger posed by HGV's travelling through Loxwood, as well as the impact they have on our local roads, please add you concerns to ours, and contact Traffic Engineer Elaine Emmett at West Sussex County Highways.

In the interim we are looking into the possibility of having official advisory signs put in place, as these do not require a traffic regulation order.

## NORTH HALL

**The North Hall Management Committee** requires an interested person to join the committee to fill the post of Chairman

Please contact 01403 751617

The **Annual General Meeting** of the North Hall Management Committee will be held at the North Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7:30pm

## NEW GARDENING CLUB

**Are you interested in gardening? Then don't miss this event!**

You are invited to come to North Hall  
On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7:30pm to hear local resident

DR SIMON THORNTON-WOOD  
(Director of Education and Science at RHS Wisley)

Who will talk to us about

FUTUROLOGY : GARDENING FOR ALL IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
Admission free.

After the talk there will be refreshments whilst you ask your questions, and see how you can implement the ideas suggested in Loxwood.

## LOXWOOD SPORTS ASSOCIATION

**In April** LSA hosted the Horsham League snooker finals night. Pulborough C took the title after narrowly defeating Horsham Club Wanderers 3-2 in a thrilling final. If you are interested in playing snooker you can contact us via our website on [www.loxwoodsports.org.uk](http://www.loxwoodsports.org.uk).

Cricket is now under way, with several games played. We have need of more players, so if you fancy a game please get in touch (01403 752973.)

On 2 May we held our new charity darts competition sponsored by Star Trophies in aid of MacMillan, raising £100. This will be repeated on 9th May next year. This was the last of our in-house darts competitions until the season begins again in September.

We have a stoolball team again this year. Their annual tournament was held on Sunday 3 August.

This summer two children's parties and a christening have been held at the pavilion, an ideal venue for such occasions. We have also hosted a number of caravan rallies on our playing field. This is an ideal site, behind the trees and well away from the main road.

## INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE

**The Police** have been carrying out additional patrols in the Loxwood at night due to the increase in crime in the area. No arrests have been made but there has been a drop in crime, hopefully as a result of the increase in high visibility policing.

At the time of going to press, the Police are planning to hold a Street Briefing in Nicholsfield, on the 21st August at 2:00pm.

As usual, the Police ask that you report any incidents of crime to them, no matter how small. It is only by being able to create a record of incidents, that they can see if a pattern is emerging, which can then be targeted.

PC Phillip HANLON  
Tele: 0845 6070999 ext: 11724  
Email: [phillip.hanlon@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:phillip.hanlon@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO Emily MAPLE  
Tele: 0845 6070999 ext: 25867  
Email: [emily.maple@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:emily.maple@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

There are 9 **Members of the Parish Council**: Alison Sanderson (Chairman), Charlie Whitmarsh (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Dugdale, Mirus Kuszel, Sacha Pawley, Priscilla Phillips, Scott Taylor, Howard Thomas and David Townsend.

The **Parish Clerk**: e-mail: [loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.chichester.gov.uk)

**West Sussex County Council**: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ. Tel: 01243 777100. **Website**: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://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: 0845 60 70 999.

**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 on: e-mail: [loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loxwoodpc@yahoo.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 e-mail: [loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk)

