



LOXWOOD Parish Council ~ Newsletter ~

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council gained a new member in December 2008, to replace Priscilla Phillips. Sarah Lane is already proving to be an asset, involving herself in all Council matters. She has been on the periphery of the Parish Council for a number of years, having acted as auditor. Sarah has helped set this years pre-cept, and is a member of the committee working to try to sort out the issue of the bridge parapets at the canal.

The Council has held its regular monthly meetings in the Church Rooms, and has been pleased to welcome members of the public. Our County Councillor Mr Chris Duncton has attended the majority of these meetings offering useful information and providing a ready 'ear' to our problems, which he has then either taken up on our behalf, or provided the contact details of the people we need to deal with. Dr Paul Mackey, one of our District Councillors has found it necessary to resign, he has been replaced by Mr John Andrews.

The PC has continued to try to get the state of the roads in the area looked in to, especially the section leading from Loxwood to Tismans Common. We have been assured that resurfacing will take place this year as soon as the weather improves. We have asked that warning signs be put in place until the work is carried out.

We continue to pursue the issue of speeding and HGV's through the village. As we are struggling to get formal assistance, can we ask that all of you are rigorous in following the speed limit as we are constantly informed that locals are the main offenders, which then undermines our case. If all Loxwood residents travel at 30mph then this will ensure that all other road users travelling at that time also travel at 30mph.

Hillreed have finally agreed to proceed with the sale of the land at Willets Way/ Station Road, and the legal process is once more underway.

Dunsfold Park: The PC are liaising with Waverly Council and PCs in the area, to keep up to date with the current situation. We have once again written to formally express our objections to the plans to build 2600 properties, and associ-

ated infrastructure. Please see the later article by the Loxwood Society to see how you can get involved.

Precept 2009/10: The Budget sub-committee spent a long time drafting the Budget for 2009/10. As ever it is a matter of trying to cover all expenditure and prepare for contingencies. Provision has been made for a cost of living increase to the Clerk's salary and increased routine running costs. We have closed our office at North Hall which was being underused due to its size and location which ruled it out as a venue for PC meetings, Jenny will work out of her home, thereby allowing us to reduce our overall 'office' expenditure.

The balance in hand includes monies earmarked for the forthcoming works at North Hall.

More running repairs are needed on the roundabout at the children's playground, as well as the possibility that the whole area may have to be relocated as part of the North Hall renovation.

The car park at the Loxwood Sports Association will be another major expenditure this year. (See later article).

As you know, the District Council is due to produce a new Sustainable Community Strategy for the area, and the PC has decided that it should seek professional guidance in updating Loxwood's own Village Plan and Design Statement, so that we are as well placed as possible to put forward our views to the District Council. Provision has been made to cover such potential costs.

Through careful budgeting, the Parish Council has managed to limit the increase in the precept – the funds the Parish Council receives from the total council tax levied in the Parish—to around 3% at £29,000 for the year. For the average band D taxpayer this is equivalent to £37.69 for the whole year—less than £75p a week.

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 Thursday 23rd 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 an-

swer session. As with last year, there will not be a formal report from local organisations and Societies, but all will be invited to publicise their activities with displays in the Hall.

The Chairman of the County and District Councils as well your local District and County Councillors will also be invited to attend, and they will no doubt be interested to hear of any local matters which might concern them.

LOXWOOD SPORTS ASSOCIATION—CAR PARK

The surface of the car park is badly worn and in some areas becoming dangerously damaged. The PC originally arranged for a number of contractors to visit the site with a view to carrying out limited repairs. What soon became apparent is that the surface is completely inadequate for the volume of heavy vehicles that use it.



The car park was originally put down for the use of those attending the sports ground, however, it is now used as a pick-up and drop off point for coaches, and for the recycling boxes. The vehicles involved in the collection of the rubbish are causing particular damage due to their weight, and the fact that they need to manoeuvre on site. Following discussion in Council, it was decided that, as recycling is an important service that we need to provide for Loxwood residents, it was essential that the car park surface should be brought up to a sufficient standard to cope with the recycling lorries.

Quotes are being sought for a full re-laying of the car park taking in to consideration the fact that it needs to be able to support the weight of the recycling lorries. We are also looking into the possibility of financial aid for the project as the costs have greatly increased due to the use of Council lorries.

CANAL PARAPETS

The parapets over the canal have proved to be extremely controversial. The PC has been in discussion with all interested parties at every stage, trying to help move the matter towards a satisfactory conclusion. The PC's decision to seek the removal of the original barriers was borne out by the over 700 signatures collected at the PO and Stores, and by the response of concerned villagers who attended the Village Meeting held in December.

Parish Council representatives along with representatives of the Loxwood Society, have attended a series of meetings with both West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and the British Horse Society, putting forward our views, listening to the two Councils requirements over matters such as Health and Safety and planning in an effort to work out a strategy to solve the issues. A

meeting has also been held with representatives from the Wey and Arun Canal Trust, (who have accepted that they made mistakes over the barriers), and it is hoped that a way forwards can be found.

LOXWOOD SOCIETY AND DUNSFOLD PARK DEVELOPMENT

Most readers will know that Dunsfold Park Ltd wants to build a new settlement on the former British Aerospace Airfield. Waverley Borough Council (WBC) rejected the planning application in September and Dunsfold Park (DP) has appealed to the Secretary of State to have the decision overturned. The appeal will be heard by a government planning inspector from 10 March to 4 April. He will give his recommendation and it will go to the Secretary of State for final decision.

There is a lot of opposition to the proposal and WBC will be defending its decision and has allocated up to £200,000 to hire counsel and witnesses. All the local Surrey parish councils will be expressing their opposition. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) will provide a loud and experienced voice against the scheme, while the Loxwood Society has joined forces with the Stop Dunsfold Park New Town Campaign (SDPNT) to work in support of WBC and provide those extra expert witnesses who may well be required to add force to the argument. It has also pledged some funds towards the Campaign.

Outside of the local area the development is against all proposed planning policy - the Surrey Structure plan, the South East Plan and the WBC Local Plan. Most of the Statuary bodies are against the proposal.

Why should we be concerned in Loxwood? The Dunsfold Park development will build 2601 houses as well as expand the existing industrial site which is just 3 miles up the road from our village. We have already seen the traffic at Alfold Crossways increase as more HGVs and cars use the industrial site, so what will it be like with the huge increase in vehicles associated with the development. The A281 will become gridlocked around Bramley and travel to Guildford will become a nightmare. In attempting to find a way round the jams, drivers will try and use the narrow lanes to Dunsfold and through Plaistow to the A283 and on to the A3. These lanes were not built for this volume of traffic.

Transport is a major issue in the appeal but perhaps just as important is the concern of building of a new community in the middle of the beautiful local countryside. How long before the new town joins up with Cranleigh and once a significant conurbation is formed, other developments are attracted, and the whole of our area becomes urbanised?

If you are concerned about the Dunsfold Park development and would like to express your displeasure a mass expression of opposition is likely to be organised on one of the appeal days. Why not turn up and show the inspector the depth of feeling about the issue? More details on this will follow nearer the time.

You can contact the Loxwood Society through Tony Colling 753163 or Len Mil-
som 752032

NORTH HALL

Thank you to everyone who helped to scrub, sand, varnish and polish the floor at the village hall while we were quiet over Christmas and thank you to all of you who offered to help as well.



We have a number of regular bookings each week at which all are welcome. If you would like more information about any of the activities on offer you can either email bookings@loxwoodvillagehall.org.uk or call Catherine on 01403 751617.

- Monday evening - Line dancing
- Wednesday morning - Mothers and Toddlers
- Wednesday evening - Yoga
- Thursday morning - Badminton

In addition, there's the Lunch Club and WI meetings once a month.

Don't forget, if you have internet access, you can check when the hall is available for bookings by going to www.loxwoodvillagehall.org.uk alternatively call Catherine on 751617.

LOXWOOD SCHOOL

The bar is being raised at Loxwood School – in more ways than one!

Big things are going on at our community primary school in Loxwood. The children are enjoying a variety of challenges across the educational, sporting, musical and social spectrum and are rightly proud of their achievements. Interacting with and supporting the local community is very much at the heart of the school's ethos and the activities of its pupils.



In October, in consultation with the Rector and with the help of the Loxwood Post Office and General Stores, the pupils raised enough money to buy Harvest baskets for over 40 elderly residents of the parish. The school received some lovely thank you notes from the delighted recipients of these gifts.

In November, the Loxwood Singers, our school choir, visited the WI and had great fun entertaining the ladies to a performance of festive favourites.

Throughout the Autumn term the pupils, school staff, PTA and parents have also

worked extremely hard to raise funds for the school's exciting New Build project. Our goal, whilst making sure we keep the "fun" in our fundraising activities, is to raise £50k for an extension to provide the school with a permanent 7th classroom as well as a Music Room and a Special Education Needs room. Local residents of the parish will also be able to use these new facilities as part of the Direct Access learning for adult education and a variety of family learning schemes.

Our New Build fundraising got off to a great start in September with a 10 mile sponsored Bike ride around our lovely local countryside; in October parents and friends enjoyed a very successful Golf Day at Wildwood; and in November our annual Xmas Bazaar was a big hit with the children, and our parents' Christmas Party was given a huge boost by celebrity parent Alvin Stardust bringing his live band to entertain us all. Our efforts for the term raised an amazing £22k. The children are very much involved in this fundraising and every time money is raised, no matter how great or small, they take turns to paint the amount in bright red paint onto our huge fundraising barometer which is on view outside the school.

In addition to raising its barometer level, Loxwood School is delighted that its educational levels have been recognised nationally, coming 84th out of over 22,000 primary schools in a recent National Schools report. We are determined to keep working to ensure that our pupils continue to benefit from the best educational environment possible whilst also extending those benefits to the wider community.

Thank you to all those residents who have supported us.

LOXWOOD COMMUNITY GARDENS INITIATIVE

WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE?

The Loxwood Community Garden Initiative has now moved on considerably in the last couple of months. We have now formed a Committee to organise and to manage the Initiative. Our overall vision is to provide community gardens and wildlife areas within the village that are accessible to all. We want to encourage people of all ages to become interested in horticulture, nature and wildlife by providing the right kind of environment for this to happen. The Gardens Initiative will especially focus on encouraging children to become involved in the scheme and to get hands on with the gardens.



HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have identified some parcels of land which we believe are suitable for our projects and we are in discussions with the relevant parties concerning the leasing of the land, hopefully for a peppercorn rent.

MEMBERSHIP/FUNDING

Later on this year we will be contacting all the people who showed an initial interest in the scheme to become members of the Initiative and to expand this as widely as possible. We will be looking also to obtain grants from various bodies which again from our initial enquiries and from discussions with other community organisations, looks very positive. Other ideas such as a community orchard have been discussed with local people e.g. sponsoring a fruit tree for the good of the project.

WEBSITE

As we speak, our own website is being developed by one of our Committee members and will be available in the near future to register your interest. This will obviously grow once we are up and running. Take a look at www.loxwoodcommunitygardens.org.uk

EVENTS

We intend to make this as interesting to everyone as possible. We will be looking to run various events throughout the year, including an Open Garden Day in the village, where you have the opportunity to view other people's gardens. We have a few gardens in mind for this but would always welcome more. We will also be looking to run events such as Apple Days, Wildlife Days, Talks, Visits etc.

URGENT – LEGAL HELP

We are desperately trying to find somebody in the Legal profession or retired from the Legal profession who could help us to sort out the legal formalities of the leasing of the land. Bearing in mind we will be short of funds at this stage, we would be looking for somebody who could hopefully save us money on the normal legal costs.

SUMMARY

As you can see from the above items, we believe we have achieved a lot in a very short time. We would like to generate as much interest as possible from an early stage. However, we must be aware that before we can start the practical work there is a lot to organise back stage i.e. legal requirements, Insurance, Health and Safety, Funding etc. We will aim to keep you all informed as much as possible as we go along and I would like to let all the people know who showed an interest in getting involved that we have not forgotten you.

Graham Moore
Loxwood Community Gardens Initiative

FRIENDS OF THE LOXWOOD MEDICAL PRACTICE (PPG)

The surgery has an active Patient Participation Group that was established in 2003.

The object for which the Group is established is to promote the relief of sickness and preservation and protection of health for the public benefit by fostering the highest possible standard of primary medical care through the medium of patient participation.

The PPG's intention is to expand new opportunities for patient involvement in primary care and independently support the Doctors and staff in sharing and spreading information on conditions of health, prevention and promotion. It is said that 'a well informed patient is easier to treat'.

Activities that the PPG undertakes include :-

- A 'Monday' walk for all abilities from Loxwood, everyone welcome.
- Providing a library of medical information with books, videos and pamphlets for loan.
- Providing talks on specific health matters.
- Assisting at clinics.
- Fund raising for equipment required for the practice nurses or surgery.

For more information on joining the PPG please ask for a leaflet at the surgery. The AGM will be held on the 29th April 2009.

LOXWOOD LUNCHEON CLUB

The Loxwood Luncheon Club is aimed at village people of all ages who meet to socialise and enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch at a very reasonable cost. We meet once a month, usually the 4th Monday each month. If you would like more information, please ring Gina Moore on: 01403 751 722.

The dates for 2009 are:

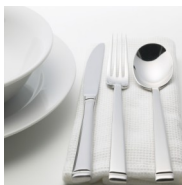
March 23rd

April 27th

June 1st (due to May Bank Holiday)

June 29th

July 27th



August - no meeting

September 28th

October 26th

November 23rd

December 14th

SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Loxwood FC are playing their first season in Division 2 of the Sussex County Football League, having won promotion last year. With half a season gone they are currently lying in 13th place, perfectly respectable for a newly promoted side. You can follow their fortunes during the rest of the season on the Loxwood Sports website.

Summer may seem a long way off at the moment, but our cricketers will be starting their indoor nets practices next month. We could use some more players, so

if you would enjoy a game of cricket give us a call.

Indoor sports come to the fore in winter of course, and we are now in the midst of our darts season. Our annual competitions are coming up soon; the Ladies Fours on 21 February, the Mixed Trebles on 7 March, and the Men's Fours on 28 March. We will also be holding our annual charity competition, a Mixed Double knockout in aid of MacMillan, on 9 May. Invitations are going out to local clubs now, so if you would enjoy a darts match let's hear from you.

WEY AND ARUN CANAL TRUST NEWS

In Loxwood, work to complete the section of canal between the B2133 bridge and the new lock is approaching completion. Our contractors, Burras, suffered delays because of the appalling wet and cold weather, but now expect to leave the site in early February. You can see the latest pictures at <http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/loxwoodbridge-09.php> (including the impressive icicle that developed when temperatures fell to -7 degrees Centigrade). As soon as the contractors have finished, we expect to reopen the bridleway along the towpath, which had to be closed for safety reasons. In preparation for the official opening on 9th May, work will also go ahead to tidy the land between the bridge and the Onslow Arms.

The new landlord of the Onslow Arms at Loxwood has kindly arranged a Race Night at the pub on Friday 6th March, with profits going to the Canal Trust. .

We expect that the new electric boat "Wiggonholt" will arrive on the Wey & Arun Canal during February. The plan is to use a crane from the Onslow Arms car park. The boat should be capable of moving under its own power but there will be extensive fitting out and safety certification work to do before it is officially ready for service, probably around the middle of the year. The boat will be ceremonially named on 9th May.

Sally Schupke : Public Relations Officer, The Wey & Arun Canal Trust
01483 560543 (daytime) 503029 (evenings), Mobile 07771 923368

LOXWOOD'S HIDDEN GEM

My husband and I moved into Loxwood in 1999, an initial escape from the very crowded suburban lifestyle we were falling into. When we told people where we were moving to, many said "where?", but quite a few said "...there's a great school there..." What we have now discovered since having two children, is that Loxwood has 2 schools it



should be extremely proud of. How many people, new or old to the village, know about the brilliant work being achieved at the Pre-school.

Established in 1980 as a charity and originally based at North Hall, through the hard work and determination of teaching staff, a parent based committee and all parents concerned, the Pre-school moved to its now permanent site at Badgers Way, Nicholsfield.

In a wonderfully, safe, friendly and fun environment my precious children have had an amazing introduction to the education system. Initially, for many children who can join the Pre-school aged 2, it is the first time away from their mums and dads. The reassurance I received when my son first started some 5 years ago was something not easily achieved for a nervous first-time mum, however the staff were fabulous and continue to have an ability to create an atmosphere where the children are so happy, they just rush into school each morning.

The Pre-school has an amazing drive and determination to succeed in all areas. The last OFSTED report was all that could be wished for, but as a committee member we are setting out sites higher and aiming to get a report of "outstanding", rarely achieved. I feel confident that if the Pre-school continues in the manner it has over the last few years, this will be achieved.

If you would like to receive a prospectus or make an appointment to see for yourselves, just how Loxwood Pre-school stands out from many others, contact Ange Coupe on 01403 753284, Loxwood Pre-school, Badgers Way, Nicholsfield, Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 0TJ.

Onslow Arms

Friday March 6th

Free Charity Horse Race Night

Feel the thrill of horse ownership when you win £20.00 , or bet on the tote in each of our 8 exhilarating races.

*Raising funds for :
The Wey & Arun Canal Society.*

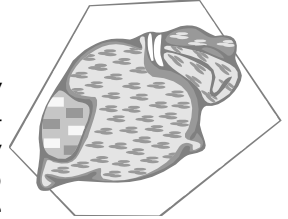
For further details call 01403 752452 and ask for Tom or Sian

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

If you are aware that a neighbour is not receiving a copy of this newsletter, please ask them to contact the Parish Clerk so that she can update our database.

BOGUS CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Some homes in Loxwood were targeted recently by 'Helpmate Ltd' an unscrupulous group, posing as collectors of unwanted items on behalf of charities. They carry out a leaflet drop one day and return later in the week to collect the items from your doorstep. Helpmates Ltd have carefully worded the flyer so that they only imply that they are collecting for charity, this means they cannot be prosecuted for actually posing as a charity. It also states in the small print that they are a commercial collection company. Please be aware that the items you donate are then sold on to street traders.



This particular group are operating nationwide, and have been the subject of numerous reports. The Police are powerless to act as there is nothing illegal in either the leaflet drop or collection as you, the householder, have voluntarily put out items for them to collect.

If you receive leaflets or bags for future collection, from this or other organisations, please check before you make your donation, or if possible, deliver directly to a charity shop.

'ASK STEVE'

For all your household and garden maintenance

Lawns and leaves.
Fences and Drains.
Or simply

Paths and Patios.
Hedges and Ditches.
Temperamental Taps

Cleaning and Clearance.
Dated Decor

No job too small

Friendly local service.
Reasonable rates

Fully insured.

References available

Why not 'Ask Steve'

07769 708 173

01403 752119

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

There are 9 **Members of the Parish Council**: Alison Sanderson (Chairman), Charlie Whitmarsh (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Dugdale, Mirus Kuszel, Sarah Lane, Sacha Pawley, 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: 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: loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk. We reserve the right to edit material, and we cannot accept political material.

Advertising: any businesses the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk by email: loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk



wishing to advertise in contact the Parish Clerk by