

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 1 April 2010

Welcome

to the first issue of 'Our Parish Matters', the new newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents. The Parish Council, together with Cockshutt's Primary School, Pre-School and the Millennium Hall Management Committee, aim through this newsletter, to let you know more about what is happening in your community. We will use this first newsletter to introduce ourselves to you; future issues will report on current activities. The Council has committed to publish three issues of the newsletter in April, August and December and then will review its success before committing to future years.

In 'Our Parish Matters' you will discover that in May some important discussions and meetings will be taking place. The Parish Council is keen to know your opinion on many issues and I encourage you to attend the public meetings that are planned. If you are unable to attend a meeting and wish to make your views known or have comments on the newsletter please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

I do hope you enjoy 'Our Parish Matters' and as a result of reading it, feel that you are being better informed about the Parish.

John Dickin
Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

Your chance to influence planning policy in your own back yard

An interactive approach called a rural toolkit, is being piloted in certain parts of Shropshire – and Shropshire Council needs people to get involved to help make it work. A series of "community testing events" are being held, when people can discuss and put forward the sorts of community benefits and infrastructures that could help their community develop and thrive in the future. Up to 30 people are needed for each event.

An event will be held for residents of Cockshutt cum Petton parish. It will include up to three Parish Council representatives as well as Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams. It will take place on the evening of Thursday 13 May 2010, at the Millennium Hall. Where a parish is looking into producing a parish plan, as is the case for Cockshutt cum Petton, the idea is that the event itself will help to gather people together to share knowledge and views about the area, leading to an improved up to date evidence base for local people to start from. Shropshire Council is accordingly looking for a range of people from the communities in the parish and ideally therefore a balance of representation across the area.

Shropshire Councillor Gwilym Butler, Cabinet member for community working, said: "The approach is about working with local communities to identify and act on their needs, and continuing to work with them into what we all hope will be a healthy and happy future. The challenge is to test us, so we really need a range of people from the local area to reality-check the things we think we know about, and put us right."

Organisers are encouraging people to get their names in on a first come first served basis by Tuesday 4 May 2010, to Mrs Lois Dale, Principal Rural Policy Officer.
Contact details are 01743 255667, or email lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk.

The Parish Council

Many residents are aware that Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council exists as a body but how many actually know who represents them and what it does? There are 8 Councillors on your Council and they aim to serve all of the community. Their names are on the back page of the newsletter.

What does it do? Over the years the role and responsibilities of parish councils have increased. With the introduction of the unitary Shropshire Council there have been a number of consultation documents and initiatives which have kept the Parish Council working hard on your behalf. It has also reviewed the traffic signs and been campaigning for improved traffic management along the A528. As a result, the Council decided that in 2010 it should meet more regularly. Not only does the Council represent the community but it also manages its own services. Did you know the Council keeps the bus shelter clean, is responsible for all aspects of street lighting in the parish, pays for the maintenance of the recreation ground and contributes to the upkeep of the churchyards?

What goes on in meetings? Come along and see firsthand! All meetings are open to residents and there is a time at the beginning of the meeting for you to make a statement to the Council, if you wish. Agendas and minutes are posted on notice boards around the Parish and are on the Parish Council's website. Take a look, come to a meeting — you may be surprised at the wide range of business being carried out!

Carole Warner

Cockshutt Community

Pre-School

We are small rural pre-school which operates from a purpose built building on the site of the Millennium hall. There is ample car parking and a well maintained safe park and large playing fields which are all used by the pre-school. Cockshutt Pre-School is managed by a parent committee and is run on a day to day basis by a team of well qualified and experienced staff.

The group is registered for just twenty

children, so the children benefit from being part of a small social group, where the parents, staff and children all get to know each other really well. Each child has a key person who plans appropriate activities, based on observations of the child's interests, to give each child the best possible opportunity to learn and develop. A good sized outside area which is well resourced allows children who prefer to be active learners to have access to the curriculum.

The Toddlers group runs every Tuesday 9.30-11.30. Once the child turns two, they are invited to come into our 'Two's Alone' session which runs in the afternoon and is an early introduction for the child to be left by the parent and to be part of a bigger social group. Once the child turns three, they move on to our morning group which is more structured and has a timetable which is carefully planned and where our motto of 'make every moment count' arose.

Cockshutt Pre-School is open between 9-11.30 and 12.30 -3 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9-11.30 on Thursdays. We hold a lunch club daily from 11.30-12.30. In April we will be offering the 15 hour entitlement to all children who are eligible, which equates to six funded sessions.

Vivien Holloway

The Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is often thought of as "just another Council meeting". You couldn't be further from the truth! The Annual Parish Meeting is the annual meeting where you, the residents, can discuss with Councillors and others issues that are important to the community.

This year's meeting is on Thursday 27 May at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall and there will be 3 items on the agenda:

- The Community Testing Event.
- The new plot of land being acquired by the Parish Council on behalf of the community.
- Traffic Issues in the Parish

We're sure you will agree that they are key to the future of the parish. Please put the date in your diary.

Carole Warner

Cockshutt Primary School

Cockshutt C of E School is a happy, very successful school where the children make good progress. Ofsted found us to be a Good and improving school and Shropshire Education Monitoring continues to find us to be a Good school with many outstanding features. We are very proud of our Foundation Stage which is now regarded by the Local Authority as Outstanding. The children enjoy learning in an outside learning area and a well resourced classroom.

We have introduced an inspiring Creative Curriculum where we have matched the National Curriculum's requirements with the skills children need for life. As part of an interesting focus of learning together we have developed the global dimension with good links with Pakistan, France, Ireland and Italy. This helps children to apply their learning in real life situations and we have noticed an improvement in the quality of work the children achieve. This reflects our commitment to educate the whole child so that they have all the skills they will need to succeed in the 21st Century.

The school views IT as a core subject. There are over 35 laptops in school as well as 12 other computers, which give us a very good ratio of computers to pupils. We are very proud of our sporting achievements. We have gained the girls football, netball, hockey and Super Stars trophies. This is the result of the after school club opportunities as well as good coaching within the curriculum.

We are very proud of all our children, our dedicated staff and supportive parents which all help to create this lovely caring environment. Visits are always welcome.

Heather Dawson BA Hons. NPQH

Wrap-around Child Care

Cockshutt School offers Wrap-around child care from 8.00am to 8.50 and 3.15 to 5.50 5 days a week in term time to children aged 3-11. Morning sessions include a healthy Breakfast and cost £1.50. Afternoon sessions include a light snack and cost £6

Book your Before or After School place with Mrs Williams between 2.30 and 4.30pm on 01939 270 616

The Wrekin Housing Trust

The Wrekin Housing Trust has owned and managed 16 properties on The Meadows development, since May 2008. The properties are a mixture of social rent and shared ownership units.

From time to time The Wrekin Housing Trust properties at The Meadows become available for rent. The development is covered by a local lettings policy, designed to ensure that customers with a local connection to Cockshutt are given priority. If you are interested in our homes at The Meadows, then you will need to register with us by visiting The Wrekin Housing Trust's www.chooseyourhome.org.uk website.

The Trust takes our commitment to Cockshutt very seriously, and we would be delighted to become more involved with the local community. If you have any suggestions on how we might do this, then please feel free to contact James Prestwich, who is based at our office at 11 Bellstone, Shrewsbury, SY1 1HU. James can be contacted on 01743 271879.

Dates for Your Diary!

- April 15 — Parish Council Meeting
- May 5 — AGM Millennium Hall Management Committee
- May 13 — Shropshire Council's Community Testing Event
- May 20 — Parish Council's Annual General Meeting
- May 27 — Annual Parish Meeting
- June 17 — Parish Council Meeting

For full details of all community events and latest village news see www.cockshuttvillage.com. There are links to the School, Pre-School and Parish Council's websites too!

Cockshutt Millennium Hall

The Millennium Hall in Cockshutt was built 12 years ago after a huge fund raising effort by the village along with a massive amount of grant money and replaces the timber war time hall that we had previously. For those of you who have not been inside the building, it is one of the best village halls in North Shropshire.

At the moment there are regular activities such as playgroup, mother and toddler, bingo, bowling, amateur dramatics, exercise classes and the football club use the showers and changing rooms. The Ellesmere Medical Practice hold 2 surgeries a week, in their dedicated room, so if you need a doctor's appointment just phone the surgery in Ellesmere as normal and ask for an appointment in Cockshutt: the village need to use this surgery or we may risk losing it.

The hall which consists of the main hall, lounge, kitchen, activity room and bar is available to hire as a whole or just one room, at very competitive rates with a discount of 30% for local residents.

The hall is looked after by a management committee who are responsible for maintaining the building, heating, lighting, insuring it, cleaning and opening and closing it. In addition we look after the playing field and the children's play area. The maintenance and running of this lovely facility costs thousands of pounds each year and in order to provide the money to do this, the management committee put on various events throughout the year. Unfortunately a lot of the events that we promoted have not been well supported by the residents of the village. After all the effort put into building this wonderful hall, we need to keep it open, so please come along and enjoy the events we hold, so that we can continue to provide a hall for our village.

This year it looks likely that there will be no village fete. The fete although not a large event takes many hours to organise and unfortunately the committee do not have enough manpower to do this. However, there is a meeting taking place in the village hall on 12 April at 7.30pm to see if there is any interest by other hall users and any villagers in setting up a separate group who would be prepared to organise and run the fete this year.

Gill Webb

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Allan Biggs	01939 270 342
Jim Coleman	via the Clerk
John Dickin (Chair)	01939 270 240
Helen Eatough	01939 270 364
Alf Johnson	01939 270 245
Eddie Jones	01939 270 285
Rosemary Milns	01939 270 899
Gill Webb	01939 270 265

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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Millennium Hall

To book the hall: Ian Morris	01939 270 890
For information about the hall:	
Peter Griffiths	01939 270 463
Gill Webb	01939 270 265
Kevin Williams	01939 270 831

Cockshutt C of E Primary School

School Office (term time only)	01939 270 616
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Cockshutt Community Pre-School

Vivien Holloway (term time only)	01939 270 816
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For further information please contact the
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