

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 4 April 2011

Welcome

to the April issue of 'Our Parish Matters'. This issue has articles from several groups in the community; hopefully you will be interested to read about a few of the many activities in our Parish. There is also an introduction from our new Parish Councillor, Geoff Ralphs. The recent election saw a turnout of 45% - a very good turnout for a parish election. I would like to thank all who voted; it confirms that residents are very interested in local matters and thanks also goes to those candidates who stood for election and were not successful.

Like the proverbial bus, just as one vacancy occurs another one soon follows! Having seen the interest by residents in parish matters, Rosemary Milns has decided to stand down from the Parish Council to let another resident have their 'turn'. Rosemary has served on the Parish Council for 30 years and has been an excellent member with views on most matters concerning the parish. During her years of service Rosemary will have seen many changes to both the Parish Council and the community, hopefully in a positive way. The community of Cockshutt owes Rosemary a debt of gratitude for serving on the Parish Council and for the other activities she has undertaken over the years and continues to do. Successful communities need citizens who give their time and effort for the benefit of others, and Rosemary is certainly one of these individuals.

John Dickin
Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

Parish Councillor vacancy

Like the previous vacancy, a formal Notice was displayed which allowed ten electors to call for an election to be held. An election was not requested and therefore the Parish Council has been authorised by Shropshire Council to fill the vacancy by Co-option. This means that, rather than the electorate voting for a Councillor, the Parish Council itself will vote as individuals for the candidate they believe will fulfill the role to the benefit of the community.

Candidates will still have to meet the legal qualifications and any person interested should apply in writing to the Clerk expressing their formal interest in the position. It is recommended that the letter includes a short personal background and explains why they have applied to become a Councillor. Prospective candidates should note that the term of office is to 2013, the date of the next round of Ordinary Parish Council elections. The deadline for applications has been set by the Parish Council as 30 April 2011.

The Parish Council has also agreed the procedure for Co-option which will be held during its meeting on 17 May 2011. During the Public Statements section, candidates will be given the opportunity to give a brief presentation and answer any questions from the Council. Then at the appropriate point of the meeting, Councillors will vote for the new Councillor by secret paper ballot. The successful candidate will have to receive an absolute majority vote of those present and voting. Depending on the number of candidates, there may be several rounds of voting. After the vote has been taken, the Chairman will declare the candidate who received the highest number of votes, duly elected.

Further information is available on the Parish Council's website or from the Parish Clerk.

Cockshutt Millennium Hall

We have been busy re-decorating the main hall, corridors and entrance hall. The floor in the main hall has been polished and new stage curtains have been put up by CADS with the LJC and the village hall contributing towards the cost.

The play area has had new swing seats and by now a new bouncy chicken should be installed. We are looking into replacing the wooden centre piece of equipment with some new modern play equipment. We are hoping that by sometime in May we will have a draft of what we propose to do, which we will make available for the village to look at.

The doctor's surgery continues to be held twice a week at the hall so please continue to use this service in the village; just ring the surgery at Ellesmere for an appointment.

Regular Events held in the hall: Bingo alternate Saturdays-phone 01939 270812 for information. Short Mat Bowls every Thursday 7.30pm-phone 01939 270358 for information

By the time you read this we hope that you will have enjoyed attending our FREE family disco with snacks.

To book the hall telephone 01939 270890 or look at our web site:
www.cockshuttvillage.com

Gill Webb
Millennium Hall Management Committee
Secretary

Cockshutt Community Pre-School

Pre-School has had a busy few months with the children looking at topics including dinosaurs and how things work. We recently celebrated World Book Day with the children dressing as their favorite book characters. The children are looking forward to the better weather which will enable them to spend more time outside and they are getting ready to plant seeds in their vegetable garden.

The Committee is busy planning an Easter Fun Day to take place on Easter Monday 25 April from 12-3pm on the Millennium Hall

playing field. There will be a car boot sale, an egg hunt, stalls, games and of course refreshments! We are crossing our fingers for some sunshine and hope very much to see you all there!

We are very grateful to the Hall Committee for allowing us to site a textile recycling bin in the car park to enable us to raise much needed funds for the pre-school. Your support in putting all your unwanted clothes in the bin would be much appreciated.

There are spaces currently available at the pre-school for children aged between 2 and 4 years, and more sessions from September when a lot of the children are leaving us for school. Please come and have a look round and meet the staff if you are interested in a place for your child. There is also a friendly 'Parent and Toddler' group every Tuesday morning during term-time from 9.30-11.30am. For £2 per family the children get lots of toys to play with, a craft activity, song time and a healthy snack, and the parents get a hot drink and other grown-ups to talk to!

Sarah Beasley
Pre-school Committee Secretary

Introducing Our New Councillor

First let me thank everyone who took the time to vote in the recent Parish Council elections, especially those of you who voted for me. A turnout of 45% was very encouraging as it means that people really do care what is happening in our community.

It has been a sharp learning curve for me since the election, with meetings and emails and the like. I have also attended 'Introduction for Parish Councillors' held at Shirehall in Shrewsbury. This has given me a good insight and a base to work from.

I am available at most reasonable times for discussion etc. My telephone number is 01939 270 664 and my email address is geoffralphs@btinternet.com.

Many thanks again to those who voted for me — I will do my best not to disappoint you

Regards
Geoff Ralphs

Update on the Cockshutt Clock and Porch Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many ways to the recent needs of the Church Building at St Simon & St Jude's Cockshutt. When it was realised that the repairs to the Porch would exceed £4,000 the Fund Raising Group made that their focus during 2008. They did really well, but we were still short of that total, so last year when the Clock stopped and there was a quote for a further £1,400 at least, the PCC decided to launch 'The Clock and Porch Appeal' and since then over £1,000 has been given plus a grant from the Local Joint Committee.

That appeal asked 'Who Cares?' and you have shown that you certainly do, so thank you all for your generosity. It seems that there is never enough, as when one area gets the focus another can get overlooked, and the general funds which usually rely upon that amount of effort were somewhat depleted during that time, which means that the accounts are not especially healthy now.

It is hoped that the Clock will 'come back to life' by Easter. We'd like to invite you all to come and celebrate another resurrection with us - there will be an Easter Morning Service at 10am on Sunday 24 April.

Rev David Ash

Get Involved with Rural Watch

Rural communities are proving how effective it is to "get involved" by signing up to help tackle crime. Rural Watch, an information sharing and advice scheme, has now more than 570 members and goes from strength to strength.

Although we live in a relatively low crime area, we all know someone who has been victim of crime such as theft. Rural Watch is a two way information sharing scheme where Police inform members of any potential threats quickly and easily. Just as importantly, members are able to share information such as suspicious persons or vehicles with the Police and other members. Messages are sent via email, voice or text within hours of an incident taking place.

For more information contact the Clerk or visit www.safer-shropshire.org

Ellesmere Local Joint Committee

This coming year will see changes to the LJC as a result of cut backs being made by Shropshire Council. There will be 3, reduced from 4, meetings throughout the year and grant funding will be reduced. Another change is that Corrie Davies, our Community Action Officer (CAO) will be moving onto a different area. Corrie has helped groups within our parish go through the grant process and we wish her well in her new role. We look forward to welcoming our new CAO, Julie Ruler.

One of the roles of a LJC is to scrutinise local service delivery and to call Shropshire Council's members or officers to attend meetings and explain decisions affecting their locality. This is something your Parish Council will not be forgetting!

Parish Footpaths

Local landowners are now in the process of clearly marking the footpaths by signposting or spraying off growing crops the route of the footpath. Please remember though, the grass margin/buffer strips on the edge of fields are not public footpaths but conservation strips to protect the habitat for small mammals, birds etc. The landowner has entered a formal agreement with Defra to comply with regulations to protect this habitat.

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 12 May 2011
Cockshutt Millennium Hall
7.30pm

Updates and discussions to include:
How to get involved with using and maintaining our local Parish Paths.

Update on traffic issues
New land for community use

The evening is the ideal opportunity to meet and talk to your Parish Councillors and others in the community.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Refreshments

CADS

Cockshutt Amateur Dramatic Society, or CADS as it is better known, put on its first production in 2004. Its aim was then, and is now, to provide quality and fun entertainment for its members and audiences alike. We have a large and open membership and welcome all who would like to come along and either be in a show or join our backstage team, (come and join us, you know you want to!).

We put on three shows a year in our base at the village hall, the panto, a summer show and a show by our junior division, not to mention getting involved with other village events. This helps us cater for a wide variety of skills and acting tastes and hopefully helps our cast and crew develop into the best we can be. Our normal rehearsal days are on a Tuesday but if you want to know when we meet just ask one of our members.

We are largely self funded, our money coming from the receipts from our shows. As you can imagine, these shows are not cheap to put on, therefore we have a 'Friends of CADS' scheme which we are hoping to expand, for details once again just ask a member of the society.

In the short amount of time that I have been with them I have been incredibly impressed

by the membership's commitment and talent, (they have to put up with the rubbish I write!). Currently we are trying to raise money to improve the stage at the hall and provide new stage extensions for the benefit of the group as we are outgrowing the small acting area; however, it is unlikely to be completed any time soon because of the cost involved.

We would like to take the time here to thank the village for its generous support for our events and hope you continue to enjoy the things that we do.

I D Dickinson
Chairman



Shropshire
Telford & Wrekin

Cockshutt Pub Lunch Club

for the 60 plus at The Leaking Tap

2nd Wednesday of every month at 12 midday
Main & Dessert with tea/coffee £7

Lunches must be booked in advance

Please ring 01939 270 636

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Allan Biggs	01939 270 342
John Dickin (Chair)	01939 270 240
Helen Eatough	01939 270 364
Alf Johnson	01939 270 245
Eddie Jones	01939 270 285
Geoff Ralphs	01939 270 664
Gill Webb	01939 270 265
Vacancy	

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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Clerk: Carole Warner on 01948 710672
Email: cockshuttparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
www.2shrop.net/cockshuttcumpettonpc

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

Cockshutt Community Pre-School

Vivien Holloway (term time only) 01939 270 816
Rachel Mee (Chair) 01939 270 816

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