

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 14 February 2014

Welcome .. to the 14th edition of 'Our Parish Matters'. In the last edition I reported on the sad death of Eddie Jones. Not only did that leave a vacancy on the Parish Council but also with the position of Vice Chair of the Council. At the November Council meeting Cllr John Cooling put himself forward for the position and the Council unanimously supported him. Like all Councillors, John is available should you need any help or advice on local matters. The Council is now in the process of co-opting a new Councillor, please see the article below. If you are interested and want to know more about the role, please feel free to contact me or another Councillor. All contact details are on page 4 of the newsletter.

In January, the Council approved the Budget for the financial year 2014/15. One area the Council will be exploring during 2014/15 is an audit of the street lights in Cockshutt and whether they can be more efficient and better quality. The Council will concentrate on the lights along the main road first and then the lanes and areas off the main road. If you have any comments about the lights please let us know. The Parish Council maintains all the lights in Cockshutt except around The Meadows. These will be the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

Lastly, as I write this, the strong winds and heavy rain typical of this winter are battering our county again. If you are concerned about the safety of your home, please take up Shropshire Council's offer of a free flood protection check as explained on page 4.

John Dickin (Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council)

Parish Councillor vacancy

Like previous vacancies, 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 fulfil 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 2017, the date of the next round of Ordinary Parish Council elections. The deadline for applications has been set by the Parish Council as 31 March 2014.

The Parish Council has agreed the procedure for Co-option which will be held during its meeting on 10 April 2014. 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.

HALL

The Millennium Hall committee wish everyone in the villages a Happy New Year.

We are already into February and it's still raining!

We are fortunate in Cockshutt I suppose, in that we haven't been subject to the flooding taking place in other parts of the country. Driving past Tewkesbury and through the Somerset Levels recently was like driving over a causeway with no firm ground in sight around us. We should spare a thought for those living through that nightmare.

Our New Years Eve dinner and disco in the Hall went well, as far as I can remember. Not as many there as there have been in previous years, but enough to make it a memorable night.

Looking ahead, we are holding a Valentines Dance and curry supper on Saturday February 15th in aid of Breast Cancer in Women supporting Helen Johnstone pedalling off to Cuba whilst raising funds for the Charity.

Looking further ahead; the success of our Big Breakfast last September has prompted the need for another one on Sunday 23 March. We will, we promise, be a little more organised this time round and everyone will be fed. Cockshutt Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) have said that they will run an "Open Morning" at the event.

Enjoy the Spring – when it eventually arrives !

Ian Morris

Problems with potholes?

The quickest way of resolving these problems is to contact Shropshire Council customer services on 0345 678 9006 or email customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk. You can report any highway problem like potholes, overgrown hedges, fly tipping, dead animals, mud left on lanes and even low supplies in grit bins.

Local Joint Committees

By the time you read this article the last meeting of the Ellesmere Local Joint Committee (LJC) in its current form will have taken place. A review of LJs is taking place.

What do LJs do?

Since 2009, 28 LJs have covered all of Shropshire and they meet several times a year. Local people are able to discuss issues, raise questions and call service providers to account. They also had money allocated from Shropshire Council which LJs used to fund local community projects.

Why do LJs need to change?

In response to decreasing budgets over the last few years Shropshire Council has become a 'commissioning' Council. This means rather than providing services on its own the Council will work with partners.

What could the role of LJs be?

LJs could become the local governance structure that empowers local Shropshire Councillors, town and parish councils, local communities and partners to make decisions about how public money is spent locally; they could in effect become local commissioners. Some of the questions to be considered are: What decisions could be made locally? What opportunities are there for delegating existing service budgets to LJs to spend? How do we understand the needs/demands of local communities, identify the resources available and agree local priorities.

The Parish Council will keep you up to date with all changes through this newsletter.

Jubilee Field update

We have made some progress with the Jubilee Field project. An application was made to the Ellesmere Local Joint Committee, to secure a grant towards design and layout of the field. It is hoped that by the time you read this newsletter we would have been successful with the application.

In the meantime we have been lucky to secure the services of a design consultant, Chris Price, and it is hoped that an initial design and layout can be presented to the Parish Community in due course.

CLlr John Cooling

Mere Ambles

How would you like to join a group of enthusiastic, friendly walkers?

We are a group of people from all backgrounds and walking abilities who enjoy this **Free** activity as well as making new friends.

We meet at 10 o'clock every Wednesday at the Wharf in Ellesmere (outside Tesco's). We have a varied programme of 1 and 2 hour walks lead by Trained Leaders. Come along and give us a try.

Further info Dennis Powell 01691 690649
dmpowell@btinternet.com.

Cockshutt WI

Cockshutt WI meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Millennium Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please call Rosemary on 01939 270739 for more information, or to be picked up for meetings.

Below is the current calendar of meetings:

January 8th – John Croft, the Ukulele Man.

February 12th – Mr Castle, an ex-fireman.

Mar 12th – Anne Lewis, Wood carving.

April 9th – Karl Humphries, fly fishing and working with young people.

May 14th – An OPEN EVENING – see poster in shop.

June 4th – Outing to Wenlock Pottery, throw a pot and eat.

June 11th – Compiling our WI Scrapbook.

July 9th – Sandra Balmer stained glass making.

August – No meeting.

Sept. 10th – An OPEN EVENING – Ellie Target, Norwegian Resistance.

October 8th – Martin Jones, History of Attingham.

November 12th – AGM & Social.

December 3rd - Christmas dinner.

December 10th – Beetle drive and nibbles.

Benefice-Wide Events Calendar

Cockshutt cum Petton Parish and Welshampton and Lyneal Parish are closely linked through their churches. The linking of the four church parishes is known as a 'Benefice'. As some of you are aware in Cockshutt cum Petton Parish there is a monthly calendar of local events circulated by email and posters in the villages. The co-ordinator, Ewan Williamson has recently expanded this and cover Welshampton Parish too.

Ewan explains:

"Based on the success of the monthly events calendar for Cockshutt and Petton, and the links between the parishes especially when holding events, I have extended the calendar to cover the whole Benefice. If you don't already use the calendar to publicise your event please send details to events@cockshuttvillage.com by the 20th of the month prior to publication. To receive the calendar every month email events@cockshuttvillage.com with "Subscribe" as the subject. "

Would you like an allotment?

As part of the consultation process for the Jubilee Field, a number of suggestions were for Allotments. The Parish Council has agreed to look for suitable land for Allotments separate from the Field.

Would YOU like an allotment? Don't be put off by thinking it may be a lot of work! Maybe you could join together with another family?

If you would like to know more, what is involved with renting an allotment and the options available, then please contact your local Councillor (contact details can be found on the back page).

New Management at The Leaking Tap

Lin and her friendly staff will give you a warm welcome, with Lunchtime and Evening meals, the Sunday Quiz, and the occasional Race Night. Opening times remain unchanged.

Pop in to say Hello, and support your Local Pub!

Free Property Flood Protection Assessment

As flooding is so much in the news due to the recent weather conditions, we would like to remind you about the free property flood protection assessments which are offered by Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Council is working hard to manage flood risk across the county and is busy learning about the flooding issues that affect different areas.

As part of its approach, Shropshire Council is offering free residential property flood protection assessments, where internal flooding has been experienced. Assessments will be carried out by an approved surveyor who is independent of manufacturers of flooding related products. An assessment will be made of the likely routes of ingress for flood water entering your property, and measures that could be used to prevent or mitigate flood damage to your home will be suggested. After visiting, the surveyor will issue a brief report outlining their findings. You can then use the report to help plan protective measures for your property. Shropshire Council can provide further guidance on the types of products that are available.

Please pass this information on to residents in your parish who may be interested. If you would like a paper copy of the form to display on your parish noticeboard, please let us know.

To request a visit, please send your contact details to flood@shropshire.gov.uk or write to us at Shirehall giving your name, address and phone numbers (daytime and evening)

The Flood and Water Management Team

Shirehall
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Email: flood@shropshire.gov.uk

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Linda Baumgartl	01939 270 811
John Cooling	01939 270 309
John Dickin (Chair)	01939 270 240
Christine Hodnett	01939 270 339
Canice Lawrence	01939 270 330
Ian Morris	01939 270 890
Andrew Shakeshaft	07815 861 566
Vacancy	

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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Millennium Hall

To book the hall:

Sandra Morris	07929 773 241
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For information about the hall:

Peter Griffiths	01939 270 463
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Gill Webb	01939 270 265
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Cockshutt Events Calendar:

Email: events@cockshuttvillage.com

Cockshutt CofE Primary School & Nursery

School Office (term time only) 01939 270 616

Email: admin.cockshutt@shropshirelg.net

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