

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 3 December 2010

Welcome

to the December issue of 'Our Parish Matters'. This issue includes the excellent news that our Primary School has been recognised for providing outstanding education, a report on the Petton with Cockshutt Horticultural Show and two ways in which you can become involved in shaping our community. The first will be of particular interest to those who walk the rights of way in the Parish and the second will be of interest to all of the community, including the young people and children who often get over looked in community decision making. There is a lot of media coverage on 'cuts' both nationally and locally but maybe this is the ideal time to plan for the future of our community as we, ourselves, would like to see it.

On Parish Council matters, the Council has to announce that Jim Coleman has decided to stand down as a Councillor, for personal reasons. Jim is well known throughout the Cockshutt community and has been a Councillor since 2007. On behalf of the community, the Parish Council thanks Jim for his contribution and wishes him well in the future. This, of course, means there is a vacancy to fill and like all Parish Council procedures there is formal legal process to follow. The process is outlined below and included with the newsletter is a leaflet which explains what being a Councillor entails. So, what about it!? Are you our next Parish Councillor?

John Dickin
Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

Parish Councillor vacancy

The current vacancy for a Parish Councillor is for the Cockshutt Ward of the Parish. As this vacancy have arisen between the ordinary round of elections (normally every 4 years) it is classed as a Casual Vacancy. The Parish Council will advertise the vacancy by placing formal Notices around the Parish and on its website on 1 December 2010. The Notice is required to be displayed for 14 days (not including weekends and bank holidays).

During the 14 days of the Notice being displayed, ten electors from within the Ward of the Parish of the vacancy can call for an election to be held. To do this they will need to make their request **in writing** on a form obtained from the Parish or Shropshire Council to: The Returning Officer, Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND. In the event of such a request being received, the Returning Officer will decide on the date of the poll, which must fall within 60 working days (computed in the same way as the Notice) from the date of the Notice. If an election is not requested the Parish Council will be notified to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable. Should this be the case with this vacancy further guidance notes will be issued on the Parish Council's website or on request.

The Returning Officer is appointed by Shropshire Council, and he/she is responsible for the conduct of, and arrangements for filling vacancies. However, the Parish Council will assist, where able, with giving advice to prospective candidates prior to elections and, when appropriate, the preliminary arrangements for the filling of Casual Vacancies by co-option. If you need any more information, please contact the Parish Clerk, or alternatively, Shropshire Council's Elections Office on 0345 678 9015.

Petton with Cockshutt Horticultural Show

It's 5 November, 4.00 pm, dull, damp, murky and nearly dark outside. What can I do to cheer myself up? I know! Think about next summer and try to get every one around the Parish to do the same. This year because of *Our Parish Matters* is the first time that we (the horti ???'s) are able to reach out to everyone in the parish, and tell them about our Annual Show.

We hold it in the Cockshutt Millennium Hall on the first Sunday of September. The event was restarted seven years ago after a break of twenty seven years with the first ever show being held in about 1950. We restarted it as a small friendly local show and it has grown in size and managed to keep the friendly competitive atmosphere. No matter what your skills, or misfortunes, are, there is a class for you to enter. There is a rule which states competitors must live no more than six miles, as the crow flies, from Cockshutt church

Flowers, vegetables, floral art, handicraft, photographic, cookery and Young People's sections are all there waiting for your entries. There are eight cups to be won covering all the sections. (If you do win a cup you have to provide your own polish to keep it clean!!)

Overall competitor numbers and entries have increased year on year until 2010 when we witnessed a fall across the board, which was disappointing, however we still managed to make a (very) small profit and all our helpers agree we will hold the show next year. The one thing we cannot understand is the lack of entries in the Young Peoples classes, not a single entry this year. This makes us feel very sad as we hear so much about young people having nothing to do. Please get in touch, tell us what you would like to do for entries into the show. To parents and the village establishments for the young, please encourage them to take part, for it is our children which will keep both the show and community spirit alive and strong in the future.

Please come to our AGM and let us know your ideas, no you will not be "press ganged" into a committee position because we do not have a committee. The Chairman, secretary

and treasurer are prepared to carry on and they rely on a band of helpers who are always there when needed. AGM will be early February 2011.

For information or just a chat please telephone 01939 270 245

Alf Johnson
Treasurer

Cockshutt Primary School Outstanding Early Years Foundation Stage!

Cockshutt C of E School have had their OFSED Inspection and it confirmed what they already knew, that the teaching and learning in their Foundation Stage is outstanding. The school has spent a lot of time, energy and money providing an excellent learning environment so that the children of Cockshutt and the surrounding area can have the best possible start in life and it was lovely to have this recognised by OFSTED. The Government target for achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is achieved by 47% of children nationally, 55% of children in Shropshire (2009 data) and 100% (2010 data) of children in Cockshutt School. They found Cockshutt C of E School to be a 'Good' school with many aspects of the school being 'Outstanding' including children's behaviour, the extent to which pupils contribute to the school and the wider community, attendance, effective care, guidance and support, equal opportunities and community cohesion. The school is very proud of this report and especially pleased that the Inspectors believe the school will continue to improve as the outstanding teaching and learning the children have received in the Early Years impacts throughout the school.

This term they also received recognition of all the hard work they have done to develop children's understanding of the diversity and wonders of the world. Coming from a small Shropshire village it is hard for children to get the opportunity to understand cultural diversity. The school therefore developed partnerships in Pakistan, Ireland, France and Italy to help the children talk to children from around the world and find out more about their own culture and the culture of their friends. All this work has been recognised with the school being awarded the Full International Schools Award. They already

had the Intermediate Award but are very proud to have received the full award because not many small schools achieve this because of all the work involved. Thanks to all those members of the community who completed the survey at the 'Culture in Cockshutt Evening'.

The before and after school clubs are continuing to grow and really valued by all the parents that make use of them. A common comment is that children enjoy it so much it is hard to persuade them to come home! Places are still available, contact the school to book a place if your child is over 3.

Mrs H Dawson
Headteacher BA Hons, NPQH

Looking after our Parish Paths

A few years ago the Parish was included in Shropshire Council's Parish Access Project, the aim being to restore almost 2000km of paths (rights of way and bridle paths) in 100 Shropshire parishes. However, over time the paths, if not maintained, will become overgrown and difficult to access. Recently, it was suggested to the Parish Council that some parishioners might take on some responsibility for the paths in our Parish especially in these times when Shropshire Council's resources are limited. The following schemes are sponsored by Shropshire Council and could be an answer.

There are two schemes called the Parish Path Partnership (P3) scheme and the Parish Path Warden (PPW) scheme. The Parish Path Partnership (P3) scheme is where a group carry out practical improvements to their local public rights of way network. This work varies from simple waymarking and minor clearance up to replacing stiles with gates and installing small bridges and strimming paths. Training and support is given to the groups to enable them to work as self sufficiently as possible. Some P3 groups have also produced local walking leaflets and got involved in the national walking for health scheme.

The P3 scheme began in the early 90's and has thrived ever since; there are now some 60 groups in the County.

The Parish Path Warden (PPW) scheme is for an individual or small group who wish to help

look after their rights of way but are unable to take part in full P3 activities. The wardens will act as the eyes and ears in a parish, annually inspecting the rights of way network, reporting problems found and finding out landowner details. PPW's will also conduct minor clearance around stiles and gates together with waymarking. The PPW scheme started in 2008 and there are now some 25 Parishes covered.

The PPW and P3 scheme are designed to be complementary. If interest within a parish grows and more people volunteer then the warden scheme could develop into a full P3 group. If you are interested in starting a P3 or PPW group please contact your Parish Councillor.

Local Joint Committee Grants

Due to deadlines we were unable to report in the last newsletter that 2 groups were successful in obtaining Grants from the LJC in July.

Cockshutt Amateur Dramatics—£1,000 for stage extensions and replacement of stage curtains and tracking.

St Simon and St Jude PCC – £970 for a slabbed pathway through the church yard. Since the LJC commenced in 2009 nearly £6,000 has been received by parish groups!

Dates for Your Christmas Diary!

Cockshutt Village Christmas Fayre
Saturday 4 December 2pm
Millennium Hall

Cockshutt School Christmas Play
Thursday 16 December 1.30pm
Cockshutt Church

Carols by Candlelight - Petton Church
Friday 17 December 7pm

Christingle Service—Cockshutt Church
Sunday 19 December from 3pm

Nativity (tbc) and Carols—Cockshutt Church
Friday 24 December 4pm

Christmas Service—Petton Church
Saturday 25 December 9am

For full details of all community events and latest village news see
www.cockshuttvillage.com.

What is Community Led Planning?

"Community Led Planning enables communities to research and debate the needs and aspirations of their area, and take responsibility for making things happen"

The plans for taking forward these improvements, whoever is doing them, is often called a Community Plan but it can have other titles including parish plan, market town healthcheck or neighbourhood plan to name but a few.

Done well, community led planning should involve collecting the views of all of the community, not just a few. This can be done through surveys, interviews and a variety of community participation methods as well as looking at written information about the community. A Plan can include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment needs to playgrounds and include issues that are social, environmental or economic. Importantly, a Plan will look at both positive and negative aspects of the area.

What are the benefits to the community?
Although historically communities have often felt dependent on public services to deliver the basic things which make a difference to

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
Rosemary Milns	01939 270 899
Gill Webb	01939 270 265
Vacancy	

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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their quality of life, communities can become much more active in resolving their own problems. In fact, often they themselves are key to doing this.

Even on those issues where the community needs support to improve things, just the process of working together to try and make things happen can have positive effects to the community. It can foster understanding and agreement within communities.

Who should be involved?

Everyone who is involved in the day to day life of the community:

- ALL residents over 5 years old;
- local clubs and societies;
- businesses;
- local organisations;
- Parish Council.

All those from outside the local community but are interested in it, for example:

- Community Council of Shropshire;
- Shropshire Council;
- the Police.

So would we benefit from a Community Plan?
The Parish Council believes so!

If you would like to be involved, talk to a Parish Councillor and look out for further information. The Parish Council will be organising a meeting to explain Community Plans and the process in more detail.

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
Jamie Cureton	01939 270 394

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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