

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 6 November 2011

Welcome

to the November issue of 'Our Parish Matters'. A shorter than normal 'welcome' this issue due to the amount of local news included. Congratulations must go to the Primary School and big 'thank you's to Jonnymo for organising Cockfest3 and the donations to the community groups and to Bim and Alf Johnson who have decided to stand down as Secretary and Treasurer of the Horticultural Show.

Between now and the New Year the Parish Council will be concentrating on Financial and Planning issues. The Council will be reviewing new but key Shropshire Council Planning documents which will impact development in our Parish and we would welcome your comments. If you are interested please talk to a Councillor or come along to a meeting.

John Dickin
Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

Petton with Cockshutt Horticultural Show

Here we are in the eleventh month reflecting on another year, in a time of change, challenge, disappointment, success, fun and elation. No we are not referring to the English Cricket team, but our own Petton with Cockshutt Horticultural show.

What a challenge to all gardeners 2011 has been! We thought that the 2011 show would be a non starter with very few garden entries, but how wrong can one get? Despite the seemingly drought conditions in this area during most of the growing season, entries of flowers, vegetables and especially (where did it all come from?) fruit, were fantastic. Entries in the cooking, photographic, handicraft and floral art were all considerably more than in 2010. Following the big disappointment of 2010 in the Young People's classes, when there were NO entries, 2011 produced a host of entries from the pre school class with four entries from the older age groups. I still cannot understand why the entries from the school age children are so sparse. Come on parents and school, give us a bit of support, tells us what would be of interest to you. It could mean there is no time to be bored.

The one disappointment for me was the lower number of people coming to view the show in the afternoon.

Ivor Evans was again successful in winning the

Farmer's Cup and also won the "most points in the show" award. Who's going to challenge him in 2012? Congratulations to Master Ben Beasley on winning the cup for the Young People's Section. The garden orientated judge for "The Best in Show" award certainly caused elation for Andrew Hankey by awarding him the cup for his superb hand made loaf of bread in class seventy six. Everyone competing seemed to have a smile on their face including Frank T. *sorry about your leek Frank!!!!*

Remember, you don't need a garden to be able to take part in the show. Why don't you come and help us to plan the classes for next year's show at the Annual General Meeting soon after Christmas. **LOOK OUT FOR THE NOTICES.**

Now we come to the change!! Bim and I announced at the after show meeting that we wished to hand over the duties of secretary and treasurer to someone new. We have done it since the show was re-established and have seen it grow into a good hearted, friendly show. There is no formal committee as such but there are a lot of very good, dedicated helpers; so if you are interested please get in touch with us and have a chat. We will be delighted to help you get started.

Bim & Alf Johnson on 01939 270245

HALL

The Village Hall Committee have continued to work on the maintenance of the hall and grounds. If you have been in the hall recently you will have seen the new curtains in the hall. We have had our 10 year electrical circuit test and now had completed various electrical works required to comply with new electrical regulations. We still have problems with intermittent leaking of the guttering over the foyer, not helped by having the roof walked on by the lead thieves; we are looking into this, but it will require major works in order to carry out the repair. The upgrade of the play area continues and following consultation at the Hall AGM, Playgroup and the School, we are now working with Shropshire Council to source the best deal.

The village walk, followed by tea and cakes was well supported and we hope to repeat this event next year. A very successful free family Halloween disco took place at the end of October and we intend to have another disco sometime in the spring.

A very successful, ticket sell out of Cockfest3 was hosted at the village hall at the beginning of October. Jonnymo, the organiser very kindly has given donations which will benefit the Village Hall, CADS, Bowling and Bingo.

Car parking on the Village Hall car park.

The Village Hall car park is provided for the convenience of visitors to the Hall and is not a public facility. Recently we have had some vehicles regularly parking on the car park overnight, some without car tax and even 2 very large lorries stopping overnight. As a result, a sign has been erected restricting the car park to authorised vehicles only. Of course short term use by parents dropping off children for school is perfectly acceptable, as are visitors to the play ground & football field etc. In the event of the school or church requiring extra parking for a function, we are always happy to try and help, providing we do not have a booking at the hall. We have now placed drop kerbs from the tarmac area of the car park onto the playing field so that it can be used as an overspill car park if needed.

Remember, for any functions you might be thinking of organising, call 01939 270890 for details about using the hall or look at our web site www.cockshuttvillagehall.co.uk We also now have a face book page showing photos of recent events and forthcoming events www.facebook.com/pages/Cockshutt-Millennium-Hall/269320643098809

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 12th November 7.30pm
An evening of Comedy and Magic

£5 pay on the door

Saturday 3rd December 2.00pm
Christmas Fair

lots of stalls and Father Christmas!

Saturday 31st December 7.30pm
New Years Eve Party

£10 for 2 course meal and dancing

Ticket entry only — phone 01939 270831/270265/270463 for tickets

Cockshutt School achieves the award for having the Best Attendance in County!

The Head teacher of Cockshutt School is very proud of the children, parents and staff at Cockshutt School. We achieved the best attendance in the whole of Shropshire with 97.4% attendance. This is fantastic. It shows that the staff at school are working really hard to make learning fun so that children really want to come to school. It also shows that our parents are really committed to supporting their children's learning by making sure that they attend school unless they are very poorly, and are not taking holidays in term time. If children attend school regularly they feel happy and secure both in lessons and socially with their peers. This then becomes self-fulfilling because when the children are enjoying school, both the academic and the social aspects, they are keen to come and the school continues to be a happy secure one. Well done everyone. Let's try and achieve it again this school year!

Four Years of Outstanding Improvement in the Early Years!
Since 2008 the School's link with the

Cockshutt Pre-School has become very close. We pay each other regular visits, spend time getting to know the children, share training and expertise. The Head teacher has recently reviewed the performance of the children entering and leaving reception. The results are outstanding over all four years and the improvement in children's performance can clearly be linked to this collaborative work between the hard working Cockshutt School staff and the staff at Cockshutt Playgroup. Our results are considerably higher than National and Local achievement; this was recognised by the Shropshire County Early Years Advisor at a meeting recently attended by the Head and Playgroup Leader. Although the National Guidelines are achieved in all areas we don't want to stop at this and wish to ensure we are outstanding in all areas, so together we have identified a couple of areas to concentrate on this year. These are Music and Writing. The teacher at Cockshutt School is going to work closely with the Pre-School to develop these areas and then we are going to hold joint Mark-Making drop-in sessions where children can have a go and parents can see the type of activities taking place in the two settings. The two settings are also going to enjoy a Music Morning together with lots of lovely musical activities which will be shared with parents at 11am.

The Mark Making drop-in session will be held on 29th November 9.00-10.45 as part of our Joint Open Day.

The Music Morning will be held on 24th January 9.30-11.30 (Parents welcome to a performance at 11.10)

Mrs H Dawson
Headteacher BA Hons, NPQH

Cockshutt Community Pre-School

Our slide show of activities shows the children holding baby rabbits and a more mature rabbit during our 'pet' week. Another shot shows children pulling up carrots to eat for snacks, and yet another shows children making apple flapjacks. At present the children are designing Christmas cards and tea towels as a fundraiser, and have you seen the scarecrow the children made?

We have got the photographer coming to the setting on November 18th 10-11.30, all are

welcome to come along and have a sitting with your family, it is open to every one, not just pre-school. The pre-school and primary school would like to welcome you to an Open Day on Tuesday 29th November, please call in to the pre-school between 8.30 and 4pm. We will shortly be advertising two vacancies for maternity cover, both due to start early in the new year. Both positions require a level 3 qualification and one is to cover for the Deputy

Vivien Holloway
Cert EYP (Open)

Christmas Services in Petton & Cockshutt 2011

Friday 16th December 7pm Petton

Carols by Candlelight

People often comment that this service for them marks the real start of Christmas. This year we welcome the Bishop of Shrewsbury to give a special message.

Sunday 18th December 3pm Cockshutt

Messy Church at Christmas

Following on from a very popular first Messy Church at Cockshutt School in September, this Christmas themed mix of craft, food and fun for all ages will also include a 'Messy Christingle' celebration.

Saturday 24th December 4pm Cockshutt

A Real Animal Nativity Service

We had the promise of some animals for last year but due to the unusual extreme cold it was felt kinder to not bring them to church. Hoping that this year, although mid-winter, the ice will not prevent there being real animals to help us retell the Christmas story.

Sunday 25th December 9am Petton

Christmas Morning Service.

A wonderful start to Christmas Day, especially as it shall be a Sunday (and if you have children they will have been up for hours by then anyway).

Maybe you can make this a new family tradition and do bring along one of your smaller presents to show everyone.

Cockshutt Women's Institute

The members of Cockshutt WI meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall, and each year we have 2 meetings when we go out. In June we have an outing somewhere followed by a meal, and in December we meet for a meal to celebrate Christmas. Recently we have widened our interests and plan to do more excursions, like our recent trip to see an ABBA tribute band.

At the monthly meetings we have speakers who range from illustrated talks to hands-on-craft evenings and demonstrations. The WI is active nationally, campaigning for improvements to rural and national life both socially and environmentally. So some meetings are dedicated to such subjects, for example we had a lady from Shropshire Council this year, helping us to get to grips with food waste and packaging. Despite the sound of this it was very interesting and certainly food for thought!

Every year there is an opportunity for each WI to send Resolutions to NFWI, our central body, on any issues of concern that we wish HM Government to address. The Resolutions are voted on at local level beforehand. For example, this year a Resolution was sent

concerning the closure of libraries. Being one of the largest organisations in the country the WI can be very powerful and influential, and we are not easily intimidated, as one famous politician found to his cost.

Our WI in Cockshutt takes part in local events and village life. Every year we host a lunch for the MS Society, and supply food and 'man power' for events like the Christmas Fair and the summer Fete. Many WI members are enthusiastic cooks, crafters and gardeners and every year they enter the Cockshutt & Petton Horticultural Show as individuals and the member with the most points claims the Pauline Povall Memorial Cup.

We frequently have Open evenings when we welcome non-members and other WIs to come along and enjoy our meetings which are always followed by refreshments. Recently we have dabbled with wine making and been entertained by Shrewsbury's Town Cryer.

Cockshutt is not a typical WI as we are a very varied bunch in age, ability, interests and lifestyle, and our Institute in Cockshutt is very informal, welcoming and friendly.

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Allan Biggs	01939 270 342
John Cooling	01939 270 309
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

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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For further information please contact the 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
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Cockshutt Community Pre-School

Vivien Holloway (term time only)	01939 270 816
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