

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2004

The most important message for this edition of the Newsletter is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We have appointed a new contractor to erect and dismantle the Christmas lights in Lower Street and Station Road this year. This year's display will be fairly modest but the contractor, R Poole Electrical, has decorated Steyning for the past few years so we hope to borrow some ideas for additional decorations next year. We have also arranged a maintenance contract this year so that any missing lamps can be replaced.

One of the Newsletter's successes has been some most welcome additional help for the WRVS meals on wheels service. In this edition we are asking for your help in planning for floods and other emergencies, maintaining Pocket Park and taking better care of our footpaths.

Reviewing the Summer edition of the Newsletter, I thought that you might appreciate a progress report on some of the matters mentioned last time:

- The skateboard ramp is now fully operational - weather permitting – and we have received offers of financial help to purchase perhaps four pieces of additional equipment from Pulborough Millennium Society and Pulborough Sports & Social Club. We have also applied for grants from Horsham District Council and from the Lottery Fund.
- Following the publication of our Housing Needs Survey, we were very pleased to attend the official opening of the new social housing development at **Strawberry Field** in Spinney North at the beginning of November.
- **Pulborough's Fun Day** was a great success. Congratulations to the winning team The Ten Commandments, from Pulborough Football Club and commiserations to the Wooden Spoon winners The A Team. The event was a financial success with a profit, which will be put towards next year's programme. The aim for the coming year is to raise funds in order that next summer it will be possible to put on a bigger event, having learnt from the experience gained this year. With this in mind it is hoped that all fund raising activities will be well supported.

Finally, do let us have your views on any issues of interest and/or concern within Pulborough. For example, there have recently been a number of articles in the local papers about possible charges for the main car park. We have opposed these, but what do you think? We are considering purchasing netball posts for the multi sports facility on the recreation ground. Do let us know if you would be interested.

Jan Botting, Chairman of Pulborough Parish Council

Did you know that ?

- **This Newsletter is funded by advertising and produced free of charge to Pulborough residents?**
- **The Parish Council plants 100s of bulbs every autumn to help bring Spring to Pulborough?**
- **Free confidential advice on financial matters is available in the Village Hall every Tuesday afternoon?** For further information, see the article about Liaise later in this Newsletter
- **All Household Waste Recycling Sites (Civic Amenity Sites) in West Sussex have containers for household batteries?** The batteries collected from the Household Waste Recycling Sites in West Sussex will be among the first to be collected and sorted for recycling in the UK as, until now, all household batteries collected have had to be exported.

NATURE AND NURTURE

POCKET PARK - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you want to protect and improve our open spaces in Pulborough? Do you know Pocket Park? It is a small area of woodland between New Place Road (behind Harwoods Garage) and the main recreation ground. The Parish Council owns the part to the east of the public footpath and leases a fairly large area to the west of the footpath from Harwoods. The rest of the Park is owned by Harwoods.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of its land and funds essential work including tree surgery and the repair of the bridge. We have recently contracted some expensive work on drainage, which will be undertaken once the surrounding ground dries out.

In the years after the hurricane in 1987 a very willing group of volunteers formed the Pocket Park Association under the enthusiastic leadership of Eileen Kelly and Dave Morris, and did an enormous amount of work to enhance the attractions of this delightful part of Pulborough. Unfortunately, the Park is now in a poor and neglected condition. The original members of the Pocket Park Association – now only 3 in number - have become older and cannot manage some of the physical work involved.

The Parish Council, supported by the Pulborough Society and the Pulborough Partnership, are now launching an initiative to revive the Pocket Park Association and general interest in Pocket Park. St Mary's School are also keen to become involved. (The Park has much educational potential in natural history, ecology etc.). The Association needs **VOLUNTEERS!**

Volunteers can help in two ways: firstly, they can join the Pocket Park Association, and under the guidance of John Garrett (one of the founder members) meet reasonably regularly once a month or when need demands) to do physical work in the Park, e.g. clearance of scrub, removal of litter and debris etc, to improve its appearance, and secondly to join in what we hope will be a large group on a particular Sunday in March or April (the date will be announced in the next Parish newsletter) when we will tackle a particular project in the Park where the more hands that are put to work, the greater the effect of the work will be.

If you are at all interested in helping, particularly by joining a small group on a regular basis, please contact John Garrett (**01798 873207**), John Denison (**01798 872613**) or Phil Williams (**01798 875025**). You would be very welcome, and obviously the work you do will be very much to the benefit of the village. However, if you would like to help but feel you cannot manage a regular commitment, watch this space in the next Newsletter for the date to be announced for a 'big bash' day in spring next year and come along then!

HEDGES

Please make sure that your hedges, shrubs and trees are not obstructing the footpath outside your property. It is essential that they are cut back to allow pedestrians to walk or use buggies on the pavements without obstruction. This is also important to motorists whose visibility at busy junctions can be obstructed by overgrown hedges. There seems to be a particular problem this year with pedestrians and even motorists having to swerve to avoid overhanging branches and foliage in several parts of Pulborough. Please check hedges and trees are not causing problems.

ADOPT A FOOTPATH

The Parish Council is keen to encourage residents to Adopt A Footpath. If you regularly use one of the many public footpaths in Pulborough, then why not adopt it? The scheme would involve keeping a regular eye on the footpath and reporting to the Parish Council should anything be amiss. Your involvement could be limited to monitoring of the footpath or you could assist maintenance of the footpath with occasional pruning of any overgrown foliage. If you would like to get involved or have any ideas for a Parish Council scheme, please give us a call on **01798 873532**.

SAFER BRIDLEWAYS

Bridleways and footpaths are part of the heritage of the countryside. They give everyone a way to enjoy the countryside safely away from road traffic. The local riding club were asking for help on bridleway issues. I offered, as I had been involved with bridleways in Bucks working with various layers of Council authorities and the British Horse Society.

Access has to be made as safe as possible for all of us. West Sussex County Council and our own Parish Council should make sure that these rights of way are not allowed to disappear. WSCC Rangers check footpaths and bridleways on a nine monthly rota for routine maintenance. Local riders have helped me by checking routes for correct height and width. Surface problems do not appear to be routine maintenance. I am pleased to see some results from the last report but there are many more still to be resolved.

There are changes on the Way. Access Forums sponsored by WSCC are working on a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Again, thanks to local riders, a plan for this area has been put to the Low Weald Access Forum. It concentrates on safe, off-road, multi-user, circular routes connecting villages to villages. If anyone wants to help, or is already working on rights of way, or just wants to report a problem, please contact me through the Parish Council Office. **Carol Houston**

Pulborough Community Partnership

Environment Focus Group Update

The Environment Focus team of ten people has been busy with projects identified in the Action Plan. These include:

Village Design Statement: This is guidance to planners on how the people of Pulborough want the area to look and feel. The document will define the criteria which Horsham District Council will adopt to judge future developments. This will involve public consultation early in the New Year.

Village History and life: this is a resource for teachers to enable them to take pupils around the village with a set of child orientated questions, related pictures and answers; they are published on CD and can be available to anyone else who is interested – contact Rob Aylott on 01798 872823

Children's Litter Poster Competition

HDC will be publishing and using one of the fantastic entries of posters from children in the area around the village.

Swan Bridge area restoration

Improvements on the south side are continuing with tree planting and further post and rail fencing. On the North side additional bollards to restrict illegal parking and sympathetic cladding of the pumping station has been done. Further work is now dependent on the survey of the bridge.

Planned projects for 2005

Subject to grants being forthcoming and volunteers being available we have planned the following projects for 2005. Four walks round the area, the Moat area restoration and Pocket Park maintenance.

The Partnership is keen to have further volunteers to help take these and other projects forward and in particular to chair the work of the Partnership. For more information contact Les Ampstead on 01798 875402

What's New in Pulborough?

Tesco's Gets the Go Ahead

The planning application for the proposed Tesco foodstore with car parking and access was formally approved by Horsham District Council on 6 October. Outline planning permission was also granted for the proposed primary care centre, 60 bed nursing home, 30 retirement flats, 16 houses and 11 flats.

Plans submitted for Riverside Concrete

Rydon Homes has submitted a planning application for 150 units at the old Riverside Concrete site. The proposed development is for 17 four-bedroom houses and a mixed development of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom flats and houses. It is expected that 30 units will be available for social housing.

The Parish Council indicated its support in principle for the proposed development in our response to the Local Development Framework, subject to the detailed design and provided there was no vehicular

access by the railway bridge. The application provides for vehicular access via a roundabout between Downsview and Stane Street Close. Only pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles will have access by the railway bridge.

Film Evenings in Pulborough

Macmillan Cancer Relief are continuing with the film evenings at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre) They will be using Cinemobile to project 35 mm film and will show currently released films. Wine, ice creams, tea and coffee will be served during the interval and there will also be a raffle to raise funds for the Macmillan Unit and Midhurst. The Winter dates are:

29 November

24 January

28 February

Please note the dates in your diary and look out for details of the films to be shown.

New Developments In Community Link

Horsham District Council's Community Link Alarm System currently has over 1200 clients. As with all products that feature electronic equipment the service is always under review to keep abreast of all innovations and improvements in the products themselves, so that clients can be sure of the best service.

The Community Link Alarm System has been available to people in Horsham District for over 17 years year has seen enormous advances in "smart technology" that can be operated from the normal community link alarm system. All the smart sensors can be programmed into the alarm and they do not have to be hard wired. These sensors include flood, CO2 and carbon monoxide detectors, extreme temperature monitors, passive infrared detectors and wandering client alerts etc. The object of this smart technology is to assist with early discharge from hospital and help to protect people's property.

The members of the Community Link team provide a presentation service for clubs and organisations, and would be delighted to demonstrate the system. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Sheila Peever on **01403 215230**.

Keeping You up to Date

Electronic Sign

Our electronic sign on the wall of the Doctors' Surgery in Lower Street is now operational. It is available free of charge to advertise local activities and events. Contact the Parish Council office if you would like to display a message.

MEETINGS OF PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MONTH	FULL COUNCIL	FINANCE & POLICY	PLANNING & SERVICES	RECREATION & OPEN SPACES
December 2004	9			
January 2005		13	6	27
February 2005	17	24	3	

All meetings are open to the public and start at 7.30 pm unless notified otherwise. Agendas are displayed on the Parish Council's noticeboards in the main car park in Pulborough and in The Street Nutbourne on the Friday preceding each meeting.

Full Council meetings are held at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre). The Recreation & Open Spaces Committee meets at the sports pavilion in Rectory Close. We are currently considering holding other Committee meetings at the sports pavilion so you will need to check the Agendas if you would like to attend.

LOCAL SERVICES

Dial A Ride

Dial a Ride is a door-to-door service for anyone who, through disability, cannot use public transport. The Dial A Ride car is a converted VW Sharan, provided by West Sussex County Council, which funds the scheme. There is ramped access to the rear of the vehicle for passengers using a wheelchair and wheelchair restraints and seat belts are used for added safety

The service is for local people and visitors of any age staying in the area, with disabilities of any kind who are unable to use public transport. Pulborough Dial A Ride is available every day. The car will pick up passengers from home. The charge is 35p per mile for the first 15 miles, and 30p per mile for the rest of the journey. One escort will be able to travel free, minimum fare £2.00. The office will tell you the exact fare when you book.

How to book

The Dial a Ride office is open between 11.00am and 1.00pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Passengers should phone 01798 875600 one or two working days before their journey, although those who need to be assured that they will be able to keep an appointment further ahead, may book up to seven days in advance. Journeys on Mondays and Tuesdays should be booked during the previous Thursday or Friday. Bookings are accepted on a first come first served basis.

Free Advice on Financial Matters

LIAISE is an independent voluntary organisation which offers FREE and confidential advice and support in financial matters, with special emphasis on debt, benefit allowances and form filling.

Debt: It is our experience that when people come to us with debt problems, they often feel unable to cope themselves, or do not know how to deal with the companies that they owe money to. We are happy to deal direct with the companies on your behalf and to help you through the whole process for as long as you need us.

Benefit Entitlements: We are able to check these on our computer system and help you to apply. A lot of people struggle to make ends meet and are unaware that they may be entitled to some benefit help, even if they own their own home.

Form Filling: Some of the benefit forms are so long and complicated that many people, especially the elderly, do not like filling them in. We are happy to help people fill in ANY forms if they need help.

Home Visits are available, by appointment if you are unable to come to the office. We are in the Social Centre, every Tuesday afternoon, from 1 - 5pm. No appointment necessary. Or telephone our 24hr answer phone **07931 300705**

Mobile Civic Amenity Service

The vehicle will be available for the deposit of rubbish in Lower Street car park from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm on the following dates. These are Saturdays apart from 2 Sundays following Bank Holidays

11 December	2 + 9 Jan (Sun)	22 Jan	5 + 19 February
-------------	-----------------	--------	-----------------

USEFUL CONTACTS

Pulborough Parish Council

Swan View, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2BF.

Email: clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Office Hours

The Parish Council's office at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre) is open:

Mon - Friday 9am –12.00 noon

Telephone **01798 873532** (answerphone available).

Keeping the Parish Clean

Horsham District Council are responsible for recycling and refuse collection, dog bin emptying, litter bin emptying, clinical waste collection, highway sweeping, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. If you have a problem, please telephone **01403 733144**.

Highways

For potholes, floods and other day to day problems with the maintenance of the roads and pavements, please telephone Denise at County Highways on **01903 878500**. You can also report faults on line at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Street Lights

Most of the street lights in Pulborough are owned by West Sussex County Council. Most WSCC lights are on numbered concrete posts. They are serviced by SOLVe who can be contacted on **0845 7581622**.

The Parish Council owns 66 street lights. These are checked regularly and serviced by SEEBOARD. Please let the Parish Council know if you have a problem with a street light which is not on a concrete post, or telephone SEEBOARD direct on **01273 432541**.

West Sussex County Council Help Points

Help points are a single point of contact for any enquiry by the public about any local government service in West Sussex. There is a 24 hour help line on **0845 7581232**.

Citizens Advice Bureau

For free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and support on a wide range of matters including benefits, consumer issues, debt, housing, employment, relationship problems and much more call the Advice Line on **0870 126 4080** or telephone an appointment in Pulborough (every other week) on **01798 872815**.