

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



December 2009

Dear Parishioners

As the weather turns colder and once again Christmas is fast approaching, may I, on behalf of the Parish Council take the opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group has not been meeting for a considerable time and I have been approached by the treasurer of the previous committee to see if there is any interest in forming a new group. There is a sum of money to help any new group to establish themselves. My personal belief is that there is scope for such a group but that it would have to encompass a wider age group and a more comprehensive range of interests and activities (eg social meetings, days out, music and theatre visits). If you might be interested and/or would be willing to help organise then please come to a meeting to be held in the Village Hall on **Thursday 14 January 2010 at 7.30pm**.

Ashley Bamforth
Chairman

Neighbourhood Panel

The last meeting was held on 26 October 2009 at The Glebe, Sutton. We are still pushing for completion of the cycleway at Witcham Toll to Wentworth so as to complete the link between Sutton and Ely.

The next time the Panel meets will be **Monday 25 January 2010** at Little Thetford Village Hall. These are public meetings - come and have your say if you are concerned about refuse and recycling collection, housing and planning issues, crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, safety, speeding and parking and other traffic issues, provisions for young people, health, environmental issues or any other issues in the neighbourhood. The meetings are rotated around the villages and the April meeting will be held at **Witcham Village Hall**. Make a note and join us – **Monday 19 April 2010 at 7pm**.

CCC Improvements for Social Care

Self Directed Support is a new way of providing social care to adults in Cambridgeshire who are eligible for support. Involves identifying a personal budget and an upfront allocation of funding to help people take control over their lives, identify their own needs and the things they want to do and if they wish manage their own support, with help if needed. Launch began in April 2009 for adults with learning disability, rolled out to individuals

with physical disability in June 2009 and over 65s in East Cambs will begin the transfer from November 2009. Call 0345 045 5202, Cambridgeshire Direct for more information.

Don Saberton

As a community we are greatly diminished by the death of Don Saberton. Witcham has lost one of the stalwarts whose lifelong commitment to other people has made life better for each one of us. There were few facets of village life in Witcham where he was not involved. Don was also widely known throughout the district.

Don had been a Parish Councillor, serving for many years as Vice-Chairman. As a valued member of the Council, he served us well, always ready with good advice that reflected the views of local people. Above all, he was a man with the ability to get things done, providing practical help to make things easier for other people and always keen to roll up his own sleeves and get on with the job.

Another of the ways in which he served the village was as a loyal supporter of the Village Hall. He was a member of the Village Hall Committee and played an important part in fundraising and the Annual World Championship Peashooting Competition.

Don was also a great sportsman. He was an active member of the Witcham Cricket Club for over half a century and he also looked after the cricket field for many years. In addition he was a member of the Bowls Club and in his younger days he played football for the village football team and for Ely.

His interest in sport and work as a coalman brought him into contact with many people in neighbouring villages. Don was therefore widely known and was well liked and highly respected throughout the surrounding district as well as in Witcham. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Don will be long remembered for his lifetime commitment to Witcham. Our thoughts go out to his wife Beryl, his surviving son Ian and his grandchildren Marc and Carl, all of whom can take pride in Don's legacy to us all through a life well lived.

Ashley Bamforth
Chairman

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Scheme 2010/11

Extra passing places are to be made from Hive Road to Wardy Hill

ECDC Fruit Orchards

National England, The National Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership are hosting

events focussing on planning and management of orchards. Interested persons, volunteer groups contact Fabiola Blum 01223 715697

Care & Repair East Cambs
 Handy Person Service- plumbing, joinery, building, small adaptations for disabled and/or over 60s. £10ph. Details on parish noticeboard or contact 01353 723777

PARISH COUNCIL
Committee Representatives 2009

Burial Board: All Councillors
Village Hall Committee: Mr D A Bamforth and Mrs Julia Bibby
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils: Mr A Berry and Mr D A Bamforth
East Cambridgeshire Parish Forum: Mr K Mackender and Mr D A Bamforth
Ely Sector Police Local Liaison Group: Mr C Watson
Strawburner Parish Forum: Mr D Saberton
Mepal Outdoor Centre: Mr D Saberton
Citizen's Advice Bureau Trustee Board: Mr D A Bamforth
Play Area: Mr D Saberton responsible for weekly inspections of equipment
HCV Joint Committee: Mr A Berry and Mr K Mackender
Neighbourhood Panel: Mr A Berry
Parish Paths (P3) Scheme: Mr A Berry

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, normally on the 2nd Tuesday in the month

12 January 2010
9 February 2010
9 March 2010

Any items for the agenda should be placed with the Clerk at least **1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.**

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time to commence 15 minutes prior to the commencement of Council business as stated above. Please see the noticeboard to view agendas and minutes, and any changes to proposed meeting dates.

Additional meetings may be called eg. to consider planning applications as required by the planning authority.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS
 (normally alternate Tuesdays)

Please put your refuse and recycling items out by 7.00am on day of collection. (please be aware the earliest is 6.00 pm on the evening before, otherwise you are deemed to be committing an offence!)

Additional bags available –
 phone VEOLIA 01353 863864
 (Max 4 brown garden bags will be replenished per household, may use cardboard box for grass cuttings)

Collection Dates: Thursday 31 December 2009
Wednesday 13 January 2010

Tuesday 26 January 2010
Tuesday 9 February 2010

NAME	CONTACT
CHAIRMAN Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453
VICE-CHAIRMAN David Saberton	01353 777423
COUNCILLORS	
Chris Watson	01353 776394
Allistair Berry	01353 778081
Karl Mackender	01353 777640
Julia Bibby	01353 777267
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Philip Read Cambridgeshire County Council	01353 778603
Anna Bailey East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 663253
Tony Goode East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 664491

Clerk: Susan Bell
 17 Astley Close, Sutton,
 Ely, Cambs CB6 2PG
 Tel 01353 778147