



Issue 26
Spring 2013

CRIGGLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY HERO 2012

The Community Hero Working Group were really pleased this year with the increased number of nominations they received for the Community Hero Awards 2012. At the January meeting of the Parish Council, the winners along with all nominees were thanked by the Chair of the Council for all their efforts and all were presented with certificates and photographs taken! Cynthia and Len Binns were pleased to receive the winning award in recognition of their support for the community through the Hall Green Community Association. Their work in getting the youth groups going was particularly commended. Pictured below everyone receiving their award.



NEW RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER/ASSISTANT CLERK

At its December meeting, Crigglestone Parish Council bade farewell to Julia Ford who had been their Responsible Financial Officer for the last four years. They wished Julia well in her new job. The Council has appointed a replacement, Jayne Venables, who arrives with substantial local government experience, and the Members look forward to working with her.



RE-CONNECT, RING & RIDE SERVICE

You may recall in the last issue, we promoted the Re-Connect Ring & Ride Service. We explained that this service was funded until June of this year, but unless passenger numbers increase it was unlikely to continue. So if you don't want to see a vital local community service withdrawn, please tell your family and friends about this service and try to give it some support for the benefit of all. The Re-Connect Service is a door-to-door service and runs between 10am and 12 noon Monday to Friday and is only £1.50 per journey! To book a pick up, just call 01924 274400.... simple.

CRIGGLESTONE VILLAGE INSTITUTE

Please support your local community facilities! The Village Institute has a number of events going on daily, but there are some slots available and at very reasonable rates. For just £9.00 per hour the hall can be booked for children's parties, family gatherings, regular classes or meetings. To enquire about booking the Institute for a party or one off event please ring Mandy on 01924 257350. If you would like to book regular sessions for classes or regular meetings, then please contact Jayne on 01226 763594.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Well the somewhat mild winter we were experiencing has certainly altered its course of late, with snow, hail, thunder and more snow. The gardeners in us all will be keen to see the daffs and crocuses raising their pretty heads to wash away those winter blues and throw open our windows and doors to welcome in the summer. In this issue, the Parish Council would like to bring to your attention the issue of burning waste in gardens or on private land (if a business). Whilst here in Crigglestone we live in a smoke free zone, this doesn't mean that people are not permitted to burn waste at any time of day or night. It merely restricts what they can burn, for example, they cannot burn toxic pollutants that are harmful to our health or the environment. So can you all show some consideration to one another and the environment as the warmer months approach and think twice about starting a fire. Perhaps that garden waste can be disposed of in the brown bins provided by Wakefield Council or taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres. If you want any further information on fires/bonfires, then please visit Wakefield Council's website at www.wakefield.gov.uk and search for 'bonfires'. While we are on the subject of gardens, maintenance and showing some consideration to our fellow parishioners, perhaps a job for your Spring garden is to trim back those hedges, trees and shrubs where they may be overhanging the footpath and potentially causing problems for pedestrians.



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BRIGHTEN UP THE PARISH THIS SUMMER! SPONSOR A HANGING BASKET

Each Summer hanging baskets are put up to enhance the appearance of the parish.

Each basket is displayed with a plaque showing either who sponsored it or a name of someone the sponsor wishes to remember.

Following last year's successful hanging basket scheme, residents and local businesses are again asked to participate by sponsoring a basket to be displayed in the summer months. For new sponsors, Sponsorship Forms are now available from the Parish Clerk on 01924 373487, existing sponsors will be contacted separately.



CAN WE HELP PROMOTE YOUR CLUB?

You may well have noticed links to a number of sports clubs on the Parish website. If you want us to include contact details of your club or you want a link to your own website please email clerk@crigglestonepc.org

KEEPING SAFE....

Did you know that there are Police Drop In sessions at Asda? These take place every Thursday morning at 11.00am for 1 hour. So if you've any concerns, then why not pop along and have a chat to our local men (and women!) in uniform.

Police Drop-In sessions are also held every Monday evening at Riverside Community House, 15 Garden Terrace, Painthorpe between 6pm and 7pm.

NEW LEGISLATION FOR PARISH COUNCILS

The Localism Act 2011 has meant that the Parish Council has had to adopt a new Code of Conduct to follow when they are conducting the work of the council. The Code features principles of selflessness, honesty and integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and leadership. The adopted Code can be viewed on the Council's website.

SETTING THE COUNCIL PRECEPT AND YOUR COUNCIL TAX..

It is that time of year again, when the Parish Council is asked to inform Wakefield Council what Precept is required for the Crigglestone Parish area. You'll be pleased to know that the Council has decided to maintain the Precept at its current level for the year 2013/14.

There have been some changes recently that may affect you regarding Council Tax Benefit. In April 2013 the Government is abolishing the national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme, which is the current means of helping people on low incomes pay their Council Tax. To replace the CTB scheme, each council across the country has been asked to develop their own local Council Tax support scheme to continue to support those on low incomes to pay their Council Tax.

The current Council Tax Benefit scheme is funded by the Government. This means that most of the benefit a council pays out it receives back. The funding given to each council to provide the new local Council Tax support scheme will be cut by at least 11%. Given the trends show that more and more people are claiming council tax benefit, this adds even more weight to the problem. Wakefield Council has estimated that the shortfall in the budget for council tax support will be £5million. The new local Council Tax support scheme will apply to Council Tax Benefit recipients of working age only. The Council has to make sure that pensioners continue to receive their current level of support.

This means that any local support scheme developed with this reduced level of funding will see the level of support for current working age claimants reduce and as a result they will have more Council Tax to pay. Wakefield Council has estimated this will affect around 19,500 people who will be contacted throughout February.

Current recipients of Council Tax Benefit will not need to reclaim for Council Tax Support. Each working age case will be recalculated automatically by Wakefield Council.

Existing Council Tax discounts and exemptions, such as the 25% single person's discount and the exemption for people who are severely mentally impaired and live on their own are not affected by the proposed changes. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Wakefield Council.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS:

Crigglestone Parish Council, The Village Institute, High Street, Crigglestone WF4 3EB
Tel: 01924 373487 **Email:** clerk@crigglestonepc.org **Website:** www.crigglestonepc.org

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Institute at 7pm.

