



The Brock News

Issue 38

SPRING 2010

Your Parish Council

Chairman: (01590)
Thorold Masefield 624565

Vice-Chairman:
Gordon Taylor 624275

Councillors:
Adrian Burks 624112
Maureen Holding 622780
John Korbey 623427
Martin Lockwood 622913
Harry Oram 622500
Russell Horne 624389
Ruth Rollin 622277
John Wingham 622292
Kevin Whittle
01425 - 615381

Parish Clerk:
Mary Pattison 622829

Groundsman:
Kevin Baker



Parish Council meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month, except August, in the Village Hall at 7 pm. Time is allowed for the public to raise any concerns and ask questions at the beginning of the meeting.

Chairman's Notes

At last, Spring is on its way, and the Forest will burst back into new life with foals, flowers and fledglings. It has been a tough, long winter with an important reminder. When the snow and ice were at their worst many of us used the local shops for our daily needs, rather than jump in our cars and head for the supermarkets. We have a splendid range of local shops, serving many of our needs and despite the weather they ensured that they were well-stocked with fresh goods. But our shops can only be there for us in difficult times, if we ensure their year-round viability by using them regularly. So, please remember to buy locally whenever you can.

Sadly the winter has seen the passing of two village stalwarts, former Councillor Jack Place, and Col. Peter Sweet. The Parish Council's recognition and appreciation of their contributions to the community and to making our village a better place appear separately. They will both be greatly missed. Their lives and their informed and focused

views showed what a difference individuals can make. We hope that others will step forward to follow them to the benefit of us all.

On other fronts we continue to make progress with the refurbishment of the Highwood Road playground; with our part in the railway's celebration of the last running of slam door trains on 22nd May, including an Italian market, a Farmers' market and entertainment for children; and with pressure for the creation of more cycle tracks within the village and to link up with the existing network.

Our ideas for a subsidised Police Community Support Officer dedicated to Brockenhurst village and College have run into problems. A possible way forward is summarized on page 3.

Please also see this issue's Planning Update for the latest, almost final stages in the development of the NPA's Core Strategy.

Finally a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th April at 7.00 pm with coffee from 6.45 pm.

Thorold Masefield

Councillor Jack Place

Jack Place was a Parish Councillor for over 20 years. He attended Council meetings regularly and was involved with several committees. Even after he retired from the Council at the 2007 elections he agreed to be co-opted to represent the PC on various bodies. Somehow, despite his busy working life and his many hours spent caring for the Bowling Club, Jack found time to give his advice and views on village issues and concerns. Because of his long and detailed knowledge of many of the Brockenhurst properties whose plumbing systems he had kept in good repair, his opinions and recommendations were exceptionally

focused - always incisive and insightful - to the extent that his fellow councillors invariably agreed with him. In recent years, while still continuing to take on some work he was a regular presence on his bicycle in the village and at the Parish Council office with his finger on the pulse. When his torch was stolen, such was the esteem in which he was held that the Police Beat Officer arranged for him to be given a replacement so that he could continue to be active - safely!

Jack, with his accumulated knowledge and practical wisdom, will be much missed.

Brockenhurst Village Hall

The Village Trust runs both the Highwood Site and the Village Hall on behalf of the community. As the result of the expiry of leases and the possibility of relocation of the Preschool to the Primary school site, exciting opportunities are arising with accommodation available from January and April 2011.

Accordingly the Trust is now inviting initial expressions of interest from individuals, groups or organisations, for proposals for the future use of both the Village Hall's Oak and Acorn rooms (designed and built as a playschool) and also the older "Highwood" buildings and the recreation area both currently occupied by Brockenhurst College.

To ensure the best use and benefit is obtained for the whole of the community the Trust will be consulting widely over the spring and summer on how the facilities should be used in future. Public meetings will be called to discuss the matter at appropriate stages. There will be a report at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday April 27th. Interested parties should contact the Trust on 01590 622580.

Highwood Buildings

The Highwood Road site was purchased by the community in 2001 to enable the village to have an area that could be developed to provide community facilities. The "Highwood buildings" comprise two post-war single storey buildings. Brockenhurst College have been occupying the whole of one building and around two-thirds of the second, plus a recreational area fronting Highwood Road. The tenancy agreement has now expired and

they intend to vacate the site by December 31st 2010.

The plans of how the buildings may now be divided for the future, rents fixed etc, are all in a very early stage, awaiting the inputs of interest shown. This may, for example be by offering one building as a whole or its division into smaller units. Adjacent to the buildings is a recreational area that could be used, possibly on a shared basis, for outdoor activities. While the Trust believes that the current economic situation is likely to preclude the prospects of being able to replace the older building for few years, it does not wish to exclude any potential use either short or long term.

Hall Oak/Acorn Room (Village Hall)

The Oak/Acorn room has an area of 12m 7m approx, plus refurbished kitchenette, children's toilets and a storage area. It is currently used by the Preschool on a Monday to Friday basis during the school term. They will vacate this room with effect from March 31st 2011 so it could then be available during these times on a regular basis.

FUTURE EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BROCKENHURST CINEMA Friday 9th April

"NOWHERE BOY" (15)

This is the story of John Lennon's childhood and youth, up to the Beatles' departure for Hamburg. Tickets £5 from Bestsellers or £5.50 at the door. 7 for 7.30pm. Contact Annette 624114.

HOW TO ACHIEVE LOW CARBON TRANSPORT. Thursday

15th April 7pm. A talk by local resident Patrick Andrews, Chair of Brockenhurst Transition and partner in car company Riversimple.

BROCKENHURST NEEDLEWORK FIESTA Sat

24th & Sunday 25th April

The ever-popular show, now in its eighth year, covers Sewing, Beading, Cross-stitch, Hand & Machine Embroidery, Knitting, Patchwork, Quilting and much more. Admission £2.50. Refreshments by the WI.

BROCKENHURST CINEMA WITH MOVIOLA 14th May

"INVICTUS" (12A) The story of Nelson Mandela's transformation of the South African rugby team into one that represents the nation. Tickets and times as 9th April entry.

NEW FOREST MODEL RAILWAY ANNUAL EXHIBITION Sat 29th & Sun 30th May

BROCKENHURST CINEMA 11th June "A SINGLE MAN" (12A)

Tickets and times as 9th April entry.

THE SCARECROW BALL June 12th.

The opportunity to bring out the posh frocks or the best (or Worzelest) scarecrow gear and enjoy a fun evening at the Village Hall to celebrate the arrival of the scarecrows in the village.

SCARECROW WEEK June 12th-20th.

If you or your club or organisation would like to show off a scarecrow please contact Pam 01590 623725.

BROCKENHURST OPEN GARDENS June 20th:

In aid of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. More than 15 Brockenhurst gardens will be open, there will be refreshments at St Saviours and a lunchtime BBQ at the football ground. The helicopter will land if its rescue schedule permits. Be sure to put this in your diary.

PLANNING UPDATE

Judging by the sudden appearance of construction vehicles in and around Brockenhurst in recent weeks, it is clear that work is now commencing on a number of local building and development projects for which planning permission was granted, but were postponed because of the recent harsh winter.

Applications coming before the parish planning committee have also shown a marked increase, which is hopefully an indicator of growing confidence in economic prospects for the region.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been working closely with National Park Authority planning and enforcement officers in an attempt to clear up several long-running cases of unauthorised development through the village and environs. This has resulted in non-compliance notices being

issued, and in two cases which ultimately went to appeal the appeals were dismissed and the developers have been put on notice to remove the unauthorised developments.

Hopefully, this will send a clear message that, where required, planning permission *must* be obtained, and just as importantly any approved building and development work has to be in accordance with the details and conditions of that approval.

If you are considering building works or alterations to your property, it is always a good idea to talk to any neighbours who may be affected before you apply for planning permission. Parish Council planning committee meets every month (generally the third Tuesday), and meetings are open to the public.

The National Park Authority has used the winter months to finalize its

various strategic documents setting out its aspirations and objectives. The Parish Council still has serious reservations about the inter-linked proposals to keep Brockenhurst's designation as a "Defined Village" and at the same time to remove the protection hitherto accorded by the formal recognition of significant parts of the village as "Areas of Special Character". We have continued to press the Council's views on this and other matters and will make as full a presentation as we are allowed when an independent Inspector reviews all the proposals in public on behalf of the Secretary of State. This will be the end of the process and the documents, amended or not, will be adopted thereafter as policy. If you have views individually or collectively you can submit them yourselves before 12th April. Each representation will be considered by the Inspector in the Autumn.

Policing in Brockenhurst and Police Surgeries

There are National and County-wide initiatives to try to make Policing priorities as responsive as possible to local needs. A full morning session was recently held in Lyndhurst by the Hampshire Constabulary to inform and to listen to New Forest Parish Councils. Further meetings are planned, starting with one focused on rural crime.

The Police Surgeries held in the village have not been particularly well attended, so from **June** they are being reorganised to take place on the **third Wednesday** each month in **our offices at 11.30 am**. Meanwhile, the Police Beat Surgeries already arranged will take place on **Tuesday 13th April at 4pm** and **Tuesday 25th May at 2.30 pm**.

Unfortunately it seems that the proposal for an almost full-time Police Community Support Officer dedicated to Brockenhurst and Brock College will not come to fruition in this form. But the main

opportunity all along had been a better chance to prioritise police tasking in accordance with our local needs. We would still have the regular presence of a PCSO, but not on an arbitrarily defined percentage of his/her time, rather according to need and perhaps to seasonal variation. The tasking mechanism would be important and we would still hope to see Neighbourhood Watch and other groups involved alongside the Parish Council and Brock College on a "Neighbourhood Action Panel" meeting perhaps every six months, or quarterly initially, to co-ordinate views. We should be able to press for an increase in the visible presence of uniformed officers in the village on foot or on a bicycle. We shall continue to discuss these ideas with the Police and with Brock College and shall keep you informed.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th April in the Forest Hall at the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. Coffee will be available from 6.45 pm.

Come along to hear your Parish, District and County Councillors give reports on their activities over the past year.

We will also have speakers from the Parish Church, the Fire Service and the Doctors' Surgery.

As usual, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues which are of concern to you.

We will have a Guest Speaker from the British Deer Society talking about Deer in our Gardens.

BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Contact:

MARY PATTISON
Parish Clerk

The Parish Council Office
Highwood Road
Brockenhurst SO42 7RY.

Phone: (01590) 622829

Email:
pc@brockpc.freemove.co.uk

Website:
www.brockenhurst.gov.uk

Your Parish Council Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 10 am - 12 noon. Other times by appointment.

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Col. Peter Sweet
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Col. Peter Sweet was a well known and well respected resident of Brockenhurst. He had a wonderfully detailed knowledge of the New Forest and its traditions derived from a lifetime of commoning and being out and about on the Forest.

Despite his age Peter came to Parish Council meetings month after month and he usually had a highly relevant contribution to present, drawing on his experience and knowledge. He knew his mind and the views of the commoning community and he put forward with gusto his clearly formulated and well founded views.

Peter Sweet also made regular effective presentments, equally topical, cogent and informed to the Verderers Court, the National Park Authority, the CDA and NFDC. He was a brightly polished thorn in support of commoning and democracy. We have truly lost one of our own.

Scarecrow Week
12th - 20th June

The Village Hall is organising a Scarecrow Week during June. Groups, individuals or organisations are invited to enter a Scarecrow for the competition with the theme of "occupations". There is no entry fee and the Scarecrows will be judged by members of the public. If you are unable to join in would you be able to give a Scarecrow a home for the judging week? Several village gardens will be open on Sunday 20th June and there is an event at the Football Club - See the Village Hall report on page 2 for details. All in aid of the HloW Air Ambulance.

Red Cross Appeal Week
2nd - 8th May

The Red Cross are looking for people to pitch in and help during Red Cross Appeal Week, and are asking for as little as two hours of your time to help collect money in your neighbourhood. It could be the best two hours you'll spend this May.

You can raise more than £100 without even leaving your street! We can send you a handful of house to house envelopes to distribute to your neighbours, just 30 envelopes could make a huge difference.

The British Red Cross works tirelessly to help vulnerable people in crisis, whether it is providing food parcels after a natural disaster in Haiti or helping people to recover after emergencies here in Hampshire - we are there to save lives and change lives. Your time this Red Cross Appeal Week can help us to help others.

Call Charlie on
01962 891680.



Great British Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 21st May 2010
Spinal Injuries Association

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21st May 2010 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services. For more information or to request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

Supermarket Vouchers for Schools

The Supermarket vouchers for equipment for schools are very useful for our village Primary School, Highwood Nursery or PreSchool. So if you don't usually collect them please do so and take them to the organisation of your choice or bring them to the Parish Council Office.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The Annual ANZAC Service will take place on Sunday 25th April at 3pm at the Commonwealth War Graves in St. Nicholas' Churchyard. A representative of the Australian or New Zealand High Commission will be present. All are welcome to join in this Remembrance. Please be in place at 2.45 pm. Where possible could you please park at the station rather than in Church Lane.

Chinese Lanterns

We have received a request to highlight awareness that Chinese lanterns are a danger to Forest animals. The animals can eat them causing choking or colic, which can lead to the animal dying or having to be put down once it is found. There have also been reports of the Coastguard being called out as the lanterns are mistaken for distress flares. Please think of the consequences before lighting these lanterns.

Chairmen of Parish Council Committees

Amenities: Harry Oram Planning: Gordon Taylor Personnel & Resources: John Wingham