

# Ribchester Review



The Newsletter of Ribchester Parish Council

Issue No.9 Spring 2006

Over the land freckled with snow half-thawed  
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed  
And saw from elm-tops, delicate as flower of grass  
What we below could not see, Winter pass.

*Edward Thomas*



*Spring Lambs in a snowy Stydd landscape*

## Speeding – The evidence

Over 70% of vehicles entering or leaving the village along Preston Road exceed the speed limit, some by as much as 25 miles per hour. These were the shock figures released recently by Lancashire County Council under the Freedom of Information Act. During traffic counts, undertaken in May and October last year an average of 3700 vehicles were recorded as travelling each day along Preston Road. Of these, a whopping 72% were travelling at 33mph or over, with some 241 vehicles registering speeds in excess of 55mph.

As readers of the newsletter will know, the Parish Council has had concerns about speeding through the village for many years, and the figures revealed by the County Council show that those fears are well founded. The simple fact is that speed is a danger to us all, and a major contributor to



road casualties.

The 30 mph limit for residential areas is no arbitrary figure. It is set because there is a substantial difference in the risk of injury, particularly to children, when driving just a few

During the past few years the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a number of speed restrictions in the area. Other traffic calming measures such as the vehicle length limit, the gateway treatments on Blackburn Road and Preston Road and the centreline markings on Stoneygate Lane have been implemented. But the evidence now uncovered shows that much remains to be done.

We shall continue to press for the enforcement of speed restrictions, particularly on the stretch of Preston Road between the police station and the village gateway sign. In addition, to protect our children as they journey to school we shall again ask the County Council to implement a 20mph residential limit on Water Street and Church Street. Even when motorists are observing the existing limits on narrow village streets, they may still be driving at an inappropriate speed for the conditions.

### Post Office to re-open

The Parish Council welcomes the recent announcement that Ribchester sub post office is to re-open at the Spar store during May. The proposed hours of opening are:

Mon: 9am to 4pm;

Tue to Fri: 9am to 1pm.

A similar range of services to those previously offered at the Blackburn road sub post office will be available.

1

Ribchester Parish Council, 11 Chesterbrook  
Tel 01254 878453  
ribparishc@tiscali.co.uk

# Neighbourhood Policing in Ribchester

Following the recent successful meeting with Inspector Jenny Coulston of the Lancashire Constabulary, the Parish Council invited PC John Treacy to set out his view about neighbourhood policing in the village. We make no apology for printing his response in full.

“Many residents will have read my previous letter, which gave some information and advice on crime reduction, home security, health and safety. I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to offer advice for the coming weeks and months so that we can all be alert and aware of helping each other to feel safe, involved and re-assured.

Many of you will agree that it is the responsibility of all to look after and care for our community. We should be vigilant and report any suspicious or un-welcome behaviour, without feeling that we may become too involved. Any information, either general or specific, will be confidential. It does not mean that an individual needs to be involved in pointing a finger. However, if crime is taking place, whether anti-social behaviour, drug taking, theft, burglary, assault or any type of criminal damage, it is important that those who are in a position to identify offenders should do so. And if possible provide a statement or information about such offences. We can take simple, but effective measures, to combat these and other crimes if we work together and speak our minds. This leads on to another important issue.

I aim to invite residents to a meeting to discuss an enhancement to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and to explain about the PACT (Police & Community Together) initiative. This involves a meeting every two or three months held as part of a normal Parish Council meeting. It presents an opportunity for residents to discuss problems and complaints with local police officers, and for issues of concern to you and your family to be raised about life in the village.

Policing is by consent, shaped in part by the wishes of the local community. The way to shape things in Ribchester is by open discussion and frank exchange of ideas that will benefit everyone. So please do look for the dates, come along, and show an interest.

In the meantime some Do's and Don'ts to consider :-

## DO NOT

- Leave items of value on show in your home, in vehicles, including the boot, or in gardens or garages.

- Leave doors unlocked at any time. We must combat the sneak thief.

2 - Let anyone into your home without first confirming that they are a legitimate visitor. An ID CARD is NOT a guarantee of honesty. Encourage elderly neighbours

and relatives to check with family members or you as neighbour that the visitor has a legitimate reason for calling. If in doubt do not let them in.

- Be afraid to contact the Police if you think something is wrong or that someone or something is suspicious or out of place.

- Put lives at risk. As most know speeding is a long standing issue within the village. Do not exceed the limits Remember the law does not differentiate between residents or people passing through. A speeding vehicle is dangerous no matter who the driver is. Also if you witness an accident DO try to make a note of the circumstances, including as many details of the vehicles involved as you can.

## DO

- Report any suspicious incident, either on 10254 51212 or if in emergency 999.

- Speak to your local police officer on 01254 878309 about matters that are of concern to you but which do not require immediate attention.

- Set your house alarm (if you have one).

- Upgrade your home security if you feel you need to (Your crime prevention officer at Clitheroe will advise about security companies).

- Look after your family and neighbours welfare. Always report something suspicious at the time. The sooner that you report something suspicious the sooner it can be dealt with. You will not be criticised for reporting a matter that appears to be suspicious if this is done with good intent.

- Report incidents of anti-social behaviour. This behaviour is not acceptable in Ribchester.

- Ensure that you know where your children are and what they are doing. Discourage them from playing in areas of danger, especially on the riverside, reservoirs and brooks. Last year there were concerns about the use of small, or inflatable, boats and swimming on the river. It is not safe, particularly for young people. They must not place themselves or others in danger

**REMEMBER** if we plan well and ask for help, we will achieve our aim to make Ribchester a safer place for everyone But above all, do not worry; crime is rare. Have a safe and happy time in our village.

John Treacy”  
*Lancashire Constabulary*



## Annual Spring Clean

With the arrival of spring comes the annual Spring Clean. One wonders what the state of our parish would be had we never instigated the annual clean. This year, the group of dedicated volunteers, somewhat larger than of late, set out on a rather damp and blustery day to tackle the problem. Thankfully there appeared to be less litter about than usual. Due in part to the efforts of the Borough Council, who regularly litter pick the lanes and by-ways and, on this occasion to the heavy rain that flooded the riverbank. However, some 30 bags of litter were collected among which were the usual discarded fast food cartons, dented soft drinks cans and bottles. The nuisance might well be less than before, but it is still there. If we could only encourage people to think before they wind down the car window.....



## Wheelie Bins – an update

The Borough Council has announced that the three-stream recycling and collection system will be phased in over the next three years. During March properties in Wilpshire, Clayton-le-Dale, Langho, Brockhall Village, Billington, Read, Simonstone and Whalley were the first to receive wheeled bins for the new service. The timetable for the introduction of the service into other areas of the Borough has still to be decided.

The Borough estimates that about 80% of properties in the Ribble Valley will be able to accommodate either two or three wheeled bins. The remaining 20% require further study. Only properties with gardens will receive three bins (one for residual waste, one for glass and plastics, and one for garden waste). The remaining properties will receive two bins. Further information can be obtained from the Borough Council by ringing 01200 414467.

## Police restructure

Most people have reservations about the proposed merger of police forces, the Parish Council among them. Of the two options available for Lancashire, the Council reluctantly supported the proposal to merge with Cumbria. But there was dismay at the arbitrary decision to press ahead without a formal public consultation. Now a report leaked in March discloses that the plan to centralise police forces among a few elite forces will go ahead despite the reservations of the Government's own advisers.

A review of the options for police reform, carried out in 2004, concluded that wholesale reorganisation would be too costly and disruptive. The only relevant question as far as local communities are concerned is whether the wholesale changes now proposed will enable the force to do a better job in protecting them. The fear must be that a handful of super authorities and those who run them will become more remote. Lancashire's planned merger with Cumbria may not be the worst example but it is still part of the fad for centralisation.

## *ribchesterpc.co.uk*

The Council's own web site has received a gratifying number of 'hits' since it was rolled out last December. We have also received some complimentary remarks but we would really like to know what you think of the site, how it might be improved and what other links it should provide. Your views are important. Please e-mail them to [ribparishc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ribparishc@tiscali.co.uk).

**3**

## Meet the Parish

The theme for this year's Annual Parish Meeting is "Shaping Health" which, with the crises in the NHS and proposed changes in Primary Care Trusts and other Health authorities is one likely to be of great interest to all. The meeting will be held in **SS Peter & Paul's Parish Centre on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** at 8.00pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. The occasion also provides a forum for both airing concerns and proposing solutions to village problems.

## Get Fit Initiative For Ribchester- Thanks to John

Following on from the success of the Ju Jitsu class for children and teenagers held each week at the Parochial Hall, teacher John Sharp is now taking a Boxercise exercise class for adults each Sunday at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend – the age range goes from the late teens to over 50s – and it's an enjoyable way to improve fitness. John stresses that the aim is to improve your own fitness, not to compete against others. The emphasis is on improving cardiac fitness, with elements of self-defence and boxercise. If you want to give it a go, turn up at the Parochial Hall on a Sunday evening. The charge is a modest £2.50p.



## The multi-games area

With the advent of warmer weather Ribchester's long-awaited multi-use games area stands ready to be put to good use. The

new development, opened last March, adds to the already impressive list of facilities provided by the Playing Field Trust. In addition to donations from public bodies, contributions towards the cost of the facility were received from the junior Football Club, the Tennis Club, St. Wilfid's school and from residents. However, some £4000 still needs to be raised and the Trust appeals for anyone who wishes to sponsor the initiative or make a donation to come forward.

## School For Two Thai Children – Thanks Tfo Ribchester’s Koa Lak Appeal



*Waruntee Nabangchan*

now lives in Phuket, Thailand. Her mother and father Maureen and John Crowther still live in the village and her sister Jill Smith lives in Dutton.

It was to them she turned to with a special appeal for help.

Former teacher Allyson had spent the year since the Tsunami helping those who had lost family members, homes and jobs to get back on their feet. But she had recognised the need to provide longer-term help – by providing educational opportunities for children who may otherwise not get an education.

She wrote to her parents to explain how schooling is free, but it costs around £15 a month to pay for transport, books, pens, paper and lunches – a cost which bars some children from ever going to classes. Mrs Crowther decided that the best option was to spread the net wide and ask people to donate a modest sum – say £1 a month. A committee was set up at a meeting at the White Bull and word began to spread about the appeal. The results so far have exceeded Mrs Crowther’s expectations – more than £1000 had already been raised by the start of the new Thai school year in April.

The children being supported by the Ribchester residents are 12-year-old orphan Waruntee Nabangchan and 11-year-old Manee Ratana who lives with her grandmother.

Further fundraising initiatives include a quiz sheet (entry £1) on the world’s capital cities devised by Roger Dolphin and a £1 stall at the village May market. The money is being sent to the Duang Prateep Foundation, which Allyson has worked with, and she will act as the local link in Thailand, reporting on the pupils’ progress.

Mrs Crowther said: “The response has been absolutely wonderful. This initiative will make a difference to these children’s lives. Thank you very much to all who have helped”.

The fund raising will continue with another event planned for the autumn and longer-term ambitions to finance the pupils throughout their schooling. For further information contact Mrs Crowther on 01254 878373.

Good things spread – now a group of like-minded individuals have got together in Grimsargh and plan to sponsor another child.

**4** \* \* \* \* \*

## RATS Present "Caught in the Net"



If you think your life is complicated, imagine the life of two-timing taxi driver John Smith who keeps two separate families!

**On May 11th,12th, 13th**, RATS puts on a show set to confuse and delight you in equal measure with Ray Cooney’s modern farce. When his teenage children (a girl from one family and a boy from the other) meet in an Internet chat room, they are anxious to meet in person. John’s (Guy Mason) already hectic life shifts into high gear as he tries to keep his double life a secret from his two wives and his two children.

Caught in the Net is actually a sequel to Cooney's popular RUN FOR YOUR WIFE that ran in London for 9 years. The show opens on a set that represents both homes, which allows for simultaneous action in both locations. Enter son Gavin Smith (Jamie Bain) with his mum Barbara (Emily Keen) and daughter Vicki Smith (Rachel Ruddock) with her mum Mary (Anne Lang). Both teenagers are discussing having met in an Internet chat room. They are amazed that they both have fathers named John Leonard Smith who are London taxi drivers. Since romance has blossomed, they are determined to meet in person. The audience soon learns that the "amazing coincidences" are because they indeed have the same father, but the characters are still in the dark. When Dad gets wind of their plan to meet, chaos ensues as he tries to keep the teens apart and keep his dual life secret from both his wives and kids. John quickly enlists the help of his dopey boarder Stanley (Rob Hindle), which only leads to hilarious lies, mistaken identities and mysterious phone calls. When Stanley's senile father (Robin Simmons) arrives for a holiday, it stirs up the antics even further. Without giving away any more details, the audience is assured that in a Ray Cooney farce, if something can go wrong, it will go ... berserk! Ray Cooney, a recognised "master of farce," has been one of Britain’s most popular playwrights where he has had 18 shows in London's West End.

**Tickets are £5 each, and are available from the box office on 01254 878530.**

### Ribchester 1st Brownies

Since reforming in 2004 the Ribchester 1<sup>st</sup> Brownie pack has enjoyed a full programme of activities. Among the highlights this year have been visits to Accrington Fire Station, with the opportunity of exploring a modern fire engine, and to the offices of the Northern Rural Partnership at Clitheroe for a brief introduction to computing.



*Brownie group with tutor Harry Rawcliffe*



**Share it with us!**

If you’ve anything you would like to include in the ‘Village News’, please send it to 11 Chesterbrook. Or, better still if you are on-line, e-mail to [ribparishc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ribparishc@tiscali.co.uk).

Please label any photographs so that they can be returned.