

Ribchester Review



The Newsletter of Ribchester Parish Council

Issue No8 Winter 2005



On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish all residents of the parish a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The March of the Wheelie Bins

The Borough Council has given the go-ahead for wheelie bins to be rolled out on local streets next spring.

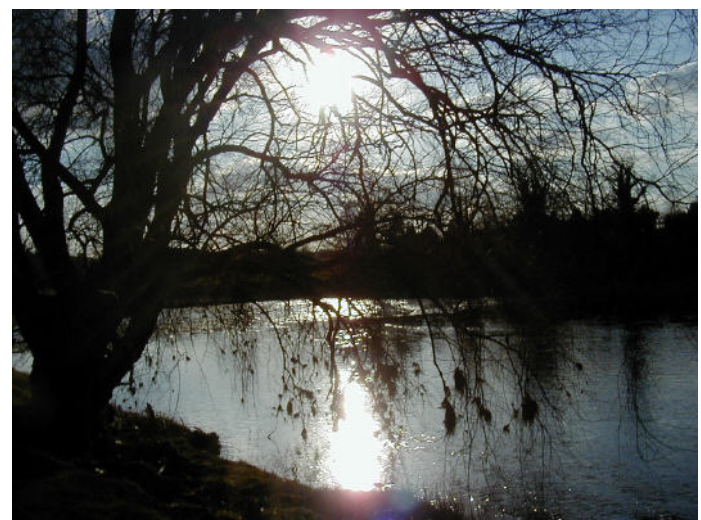
In a scheme designed to ensure that householders recycle more of their waste each household in Ribchester will be given three small wheelie bins. One will be for non-recyclables, one for garden waste, and one for recyclable waste such as glass, cans, and plastic bottles. It is intended that the current arrangements for the weekly collection of non-recyclable waste will continue. Garden waste and recyclable waste will be collected fortnightly but on alternative weeks.

In a recent statement John Heap, Director of Community Services, explained that "the Government wants local authorities to recycle waste through the domestic waste system, as well as reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfill sites, with financial penalties for each tonne of waste over target. It is vital to change public attitudes to waste and encourage the separation of waste at source. Over 24,000 tonnes of domestic waste is produced in the Ribble valley every year. The Borough Council intends to recycle and compost 58 per cent of it".

We have some ground to make up in this country when it comes to managing waste and the Parish Council has welcomed the initiative. As always, there

are concerns about the impact of new initiatives, particularly in relation to historic villages, such as Ribchester. Many properties have little or no external storage space so there is some doubt about the ability to store a number of bins. We expect the Borough Council to assess individual circumstances before providing the bins.

There is also a concern about dumping. In terms of dealing with everyday refuse, prudence begins at home and there are unfortunate signs of the return of the bad habits of the past with rubbish found dumped in the countryside.



Winter on the river

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Simply the Best

What a bumper year it's been for the locality in the Best Kept Village competition! The Parish Council constantly strives to keep our environment up to scratch, but it is a pleasant bonus to receive praise from official quarters. And so, to the honours list.... Knowle Green Village Hall was awarded the certificate of merit for the best-kept public hall, while the hamlet of Knowle Green was highly commended in the small village class. But pride of place must go, once again, to SS Peter & Paul's for being the overall winner of the Place of Worship class. With an award in each of the previous eight years success has been no stranger to the volunteers who work so hard to keep the Church and grounds in pristine condition and for which the awards are fully justified.



SS Peter & Paul's receive their trophy from Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Police restructure

Residents may, or may not be, aware that Lancashire Police Authority is currently considering the Government's latest proposals for restructuring police forces in England and Wales. Certainly, there hasn't been much public debate, still less an invitation to one, on the proposal to reduce the number of police forces in England and Wales from 43 to 12. On the face of it, reducing the number of forces to only 12 regional bodies is entirely at odds with the constant preoccupation with localisation at all levels of government.

The background to the proposal is a recent report from the Inspectorate of Constabulary, which said that many existing forces do not fully meet the standards set for dealing with the more serious forms of crime and disorder. It says that bigger forces are more likely to reach the required standard, and so proposes that new 'strategic forces' with a minimum of 4000 officers are set up across the country.

Although there has been no invitation to comment, the Parish Council wrote to the Police Authority on 23 November. This letter is reproduced below.

"Of the two options available for change the Parish Council would reluctantly support the proposal for a merger with Cumbria.

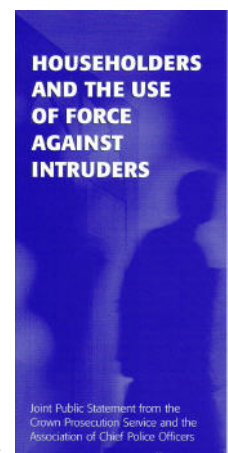
However the Council views with dismay the somewhat arbitrary nature of the decision to push ahead with the force reduction without either a full debate or formal public consultation. This is particularly perverse as the role of a police force can only be carried out successfully with the consent of the public it serves.

The great danger in the proposed merger of forces is that it will further speed up the movement of police away from the local community. We have already seen this in parts of rural Lancashire where, for some time now, police have steadily withdrawn from the patrol of local neighbourhoods. If the fear of violence, disorder, and public nuisance is to be removed from neighbourhoods then the police must stay close to the communities they police and deter crime by their knowledge of who's who and what goes on".

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The use of force against intruders.....

The Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers has published a useful statement about 'Householders and the use of force against intruders'. The statement seeks to define the term *reasonable force* and goes on to say, "Anyone can use *reasonable force* to protect themselves or others, or to carry out an arrest or to prevent crime. An individual is not expected to make fine judgments over the level of force that may be used in the heat of the moment. So long as they only do what they honestly and instinctively believe is necessary, that would be the strongest evidence of them acting lawfully and in self defence. This is still the case if they use something to hand as a weapon.



As a general rule, the more extreme the circumstances and the fear felt, the more force that can lawfully be used in self defence"

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from the CPS: telephone 020 7796 8442.

Democracy in action or talking shop?

Word has reached us that the County Council is developing proposals to strengthen democratic decision making in Lancashire, so that decisions on Council services can be made by elected councillors locally. The proposals recommend the formation of new local committees called 'Lancashire Locals'. These would act as a vehicle for involving all county councillors, together with an equal number of district councillors in the design and delivery of local government services in the area.

It must be said that the range of functions upon which decisions can be made by Lancashire Locals is very limited. Time will tell if the proposal is a true attempt at local democracy or merely just another part of the Council's strategy to position themselves favourably to create a unitary local authority in Lancashire based on existing Council boundaries.

North West Air Ambulance



Residents of the parish have had cause to be thankful that the area is served by the North West Air Ambulance. In the event of serious accidents or illness, the speed with which medical care is delivered is crucial. It

is recognised that by receiving treatment at the scene and arriving at the hospital within the "Golden Hour", the patient's chances of survival and speed of recovery are dramatically improved.

The Air Ambulance ensures this standard of care is met, overcoming the problems of distance and congestion, accessing most areas of the North West promptly, in turn bringing highly qualified paramedics and sophisticated equipment to the patient.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, the Air Ambulance is entirely funded by public donations. Your Parish Council for one has donated money to the service on behalf of Ribchester residents. But the Council is concerned that this vital lifesaving service has to rely on charitable donations. It believes strongly that the service should receive central funding and will join other local Councils in supporting moves by Staffordshire County Council to secure this.

Bus service changes

Two of the main groups in our community affected by the provision of public transport are the young and the old; and the Council is constantly aware of their predicament. Recent years have seen an improvement in the availability of public transport with the establishment of a service to Clitheroe and a direct link to Preston and the Royal Preston Hospital. However, all this has now changed, albeit without much in the way of publicity. As the Council understands the position, the services to Clitheroe and Blackburn will continue but will now terminate in Longridge. It is still possible to get to the Royal Preston Hospital (the Chipping to Preston service has been re-routed via the Hospital), but at the expense of a considerable wait in Longridge, as there is no direct connecting service from Ribchester.

The perennial problem of matching the needs of residents with resources is well known, but the Council is dismayed that the County Council saw fit to introduce the changes without much in the way of consultation. The County Council had given notice that changes were planned for the service from Blackburn, but had given no hint of any change to that from Clitheroe. The County Council thus effectively denied the Parish Council an opportunity to lobby on behalf of residents.

3 We hope that all the services provided will be well used since this is the only way we shall keep them. If any problems arise, do please contact a member of the Council and we shall do what we can to help. We wish to remain vigilant with regard to the subject of transport because of the real social problem its absence poses for a rural area such as ours.

Budget/Precept 2006/2007

On 21 November, the Council approved a net Budget of £6941 for the financial year 2006/2007. Of this £6890 will be financed by Precept on the Borough Council (equivalent to £ 10.78 for a band D property), with the balance being met from reserves. Details of the Budget and a comparison with the estimated final expenditure figure for the current financial year is given below.

Budget Head	Estimated out-turn 2004/2005	Estimate 2006/2007
Expenditure		
Clerks salary	3070	3196
Insurance	383	421
Audit Fee	300	260
Training	100	100
Donations	500	500
Hire premises	195	200
Office Costs	303	300
Stationery	73	75
Amenity Cleansing	1400	1440
LAPTC Subs	303	305
Newsletter	96	90
Yellow pages	0	80
BKV entry	20	25
Xmas Lights	75	75
Caretaker	228	234
Lengthsman Equipment	0	20
Sub Total	7046	7321
Capital Fund	150	150
Total Expenditure	7196	7471
Income		
Bank Interest	38	30
Rents (ex Allotments)	500	500
Total Income	538	530
NET EXPENDITURE	6658	6941

Ju Jitsu in Ribchester

JU Jitsu Master, John Sharp (pictured opposite) with avid pupils at the Parochial Hall. If your child is interested in joining the group contact John (0796772 6038) or Colin Cunniffe.



Around the Village

In the Bleak Midwinter

Frosty mornings, bitter cold, snow, and ice there may be, but in the dark days of December, several events have again illuminated the seasonal scene in the village. First came those two well-loved annual fixtures; St. Wilfrid's winter fair and the Christmas fair at SS Peter & Paul. We have remarked before on the generosity of Ribchester folk and once again, they have risen to the challenge. Despite the many demands on the pocket at this time of year, creditable sums were raised. It is a great tribute to those who toiled mightily to put on both events.



Canon Deeney spies a bargain

Next came the annual school nativity play performed by the younger pupils of St. Wilfrid's junior school. The play "Stable Story" was performed at SS Peter & Paul's Church on 15 December before an appreciative audience of parents and friends. The enthusiasm of all the pupils involved and the range of costumes employed reflects great credit on Mrs Lewer and her staff.

The village Christmas tree and crib were lit on 18 December following a well-attended short ceremony held after the Christingle service at St. Wilfrid. Father John Francis and Canon Deeney presided over the dedication, and Clerk, Alan Ormand spoke a few words in support of what has now become an annual feature of the village.

Thanks go to Peter Openshaw for the donation of the tree, to Reg Holt for meeting the costs of electricity and to Ann & Frank Thompson for allowing access to an electricity supply and for looking after the site.

Finally, Mrs Lewer took her farewell of Ribchester at St. Wilfrid's end of term service on 20 December. She will shortly be moving on to Hippings Methodist School at Oswaldtwistle, and we wish her well in her new post. The new head at St. Wilfrid's is Mrs Catherine Thomas.

We look forward to extending her a welcome next May when she takes up her post.

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Changing faces

September saw the departure of *Caroline Openshaw* from the Parish Council. Her resignation was accepted with regret, amid thanks for her commitment and toil. During her time on the Council Caroline worked heart and soul for Ribchester, serving ten years as Chairman.

In the past month or so two new faces have been welcomed to the Council. Neither *Geoff Rollinson*, nor *Ernie Law-Riding*, chosen in the last few days after a contested election, needs much in the way of introduction. We wish them both well in their new role as representatives of the parish.

Belated Congratulations

Are due to *Peter & Caroline Openshaw*, who made legal history recently when they were both sworn in together as High Court judges. It is believed that they are the first wife and husband to be sworn in together.

Art Club Up-date

Following a successful season Ribchester Art Club is now busy working up for next year's exhibitions. As always, new members are welcome to meetings at the Parish Centre on Stydd Lane. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Contact numbers for those interested are 01254 878430 and 01772784741.

R.A.T.S

As usual at this time of the year, the RATs are busy building up to the annual panto season. However, this year's production of "*The Wizard of Oz*" sees a break with traditional pantomime, and it is whispered that Keith Flood will discard his Dames costume for a feline one. We cannot wait!

Performance dates are February 3;4;9;10 & 11(at 7.30pm) with a matinee on February 4 & 11 at 2pm. Tickets are now available from *Jean Skilbeck* on 01254 878530. You are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

ribchesterpc.co.uk

At last! the long promised web-site was completed and rolled out on 15 December. As well as day to day information about Ribchester the site contains Minutes of Council meetings and financial information about the Council. Links to other community sites are also provided. Please ring 878453 if you wish to be included.

And finally.....Don't Forget

Roger Dolphin's 17th Annual Winter walk for 'Pudding Full' people. Starts at the telephone kiosk at 1.00pm on Wednesday 28 December.



Everyone Welcome