

Down to Business.....

Parish Meeting

The Parish meeting in March was much better attended than in previous years, with 26 people present. Reports were available from 12 village organizations and 10 representatives spoke briefly about their organizations. The reports are now available in the Records section at www.little-melton.org.uk or in printed form from the PC Clerk. There was discussion of the Hethersett development plans and the recent flooding at Mill Rd. Many thanks to Chris and Mary Starr for providing refreshments.

Flooding

Heavy rain in late February/early March caused serious flooding at Mill Rd. The Parish Council worked actively with South Norfolk District Council and the Norfolk County Highways Department and eventually the cause was traced to blockages in the pipeline that runs in the gardens of houses along Great Melton Road. Highways spent £2000 on partially clearing the blockages and the flood subsided. South Norfolk District Council has written to all the land owners and has suggested improvements that need to be made to ditches and pipes to avoid a repetition of the problem.

It is now evident that in many places around the village there are ditches and ponds that have been piped or filled in. This means that there is less capacity to absorb heavy rainfall and requires the pipes to be well maintained in order to avoid flooding in other places. Many people seem unaware of pipes under their properties and have manholes now covered by lawns and bushes. It may be a good idea to check your property deeds!

Litter Pick

A very special thank you to everyone who helped with the litter pick and playground maintenance on the 27th of March. The next litter pick will be in October so watch out for details in the next newsletter.

For the Diary....

6th Apr	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
19th Apr	Parochial Council Meeting 7.30pm at the Church
22nd Apr	Meltonians 'Norfolk Ice Creams' Village Hall 2.15pm
24th Apr	Wildlife Group Spring Butterflies 64 School Lane 2pm
26th Apr	Wildlife Group Photography talk 64 School Lane 7.30pm
2nd May	Wildlife Group Dawn chorus walk 64 School Lane 4.30am
4th May	Oil Economy Group Last ordering day
11th May	Annual Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
22nd May	Wildlife Group Garden walkabout Ring 814134
22nd May	Meltonians Party with Wymondham Warblers Village Hall 2.15pm
5th Jun	Church Meandering Fete Various places around Village
15th Jun	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
24th Jun	Meltonians 'Truth about Victorians' Village Hall 2.15pm
July 2010	Next Newsletter



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

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Proposed Development at Hethersett

The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) has suggested that 1000 new homes should be built at Hethersett by 2026. However, the GNDP plan has not yet been adopted and in mid March a development company conducted a consultation exercise that led to plans for 1140 homes being put forward. A year ago the GNDP were considering options for up to 7000 new homes at Hethersett and Little Melton Parish Council actively campaigned against this on the grounds that it would lead to massive increases in traffic through Little Melton. The Parish Council has much the same concerns about the current proposals, as the new houses and business units would be built around Little Melton Road and Burnthouse Lane.

The Parish Council accepts that some development is inevitable and will campaign for measures to minimize car use and to divert traffic away from Little Melton. Dualling of the A11, large developments at Cringleford, Wymondham and Attleborough will all lead to increased traffic at Thickthorn with the consequent danger that Little Melton will become a rat run. The developers have taken heed of many of the suggestions made by Little Melton Parish Council but we think that more needs to be done in order to stop Little Melton becoming the access route to the new domestic and commercial developments.

Please see the GNDP page under Information at www.little-melton.org.uk where there is more information and a survey where you can let the Parish Council know how you would like us to respond to this issue.

Parish Council contacts:

Clerk: Richard Sinclair 01603 811432 - clerk@little-melton.org.uk

Chair: John Heaser - chair@little-melton.org.uk

**Don't forget, there's more information, updated
regularly on www.little-melton.org.uk**

All Saints Church

We feel unable to have the church unlocked due to the relatively isolated position, however you can visit for;

Sunday services, Tuesday morning prayers 9.30 - 10.15, working parties on every first Saturday of the month or by ringing a church warden.

The meandering fete will take place on Saturday 5th June. Several gardens will be open and the usual refreshments, stalls and games will be available.

Christian Aid Week is 9th - 15th May. Collectors will visit every house in the village. If you miss a collector please take your gift to the Village Store. Please be as generous as possible, this is our main effort to support the vital work of Christian Aid in many countries devastated by natural disasters. Please make cheques payable to Christian Aid and don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid details if you are a UK Tax payer to make every £1 worth £1.28.

The Annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council is Monday 19th April at 7.30 pm at the Church, everyone is welcome.

Wildlife Group

During January, 12 members attended an excellent talk on Bats by Sam Phillips. During April we will be looking for spring butterflies and will enjoy an illustrated talk by wildlife photographer Hans Watson.

Sunday 2nd May is international dawn chorus day, so we will have our own dawn chorus walk. Also during May there will be a garden walkabout to identify suitable sites for amphibian hibernacula and bird and bat boxes, followed by a social.

Please see back page for dates, and for further details contact Peter on 814134.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fortunately, since the last newsletter we are still been spared the amount of criminal activity which has occurred in neighbouring villages.

Due to the ongoing alterations to the Homewatch organisation in the county, there have not been as many reports of incidents in the area, as in the past.

We should soon be aware of the details of the transfer of Homewatch to Communications and Public Affairs with greater integration of Norfolk's 52 Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Ron Websdale has been the co-coordinator for 10 years and would be interested to know if anybody in the Village is willing to take over the role in whatever form it may take under the new model.

Pre-School Nursery

The Nursery have produced an Annual Development Plan, investing in some new equipment for the children to develop their skills. The main focus for the Spring/Summer term is to proceed with the development of the outside area ready for the children to enjoy the warmer weather. The staff continue to do a fantastic job in both the terms of the childrens development and providing a safe and secure environment for them to grow.

If you would like to find out more about the nursery including up and coming events please visit the website www.littlemeltonpreschoolnursery.co.uk

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PARISH news

Friends of Little Melton Church

The Friends, founded in 1999, continues to flourish and allows both regular church-goers and others with a secular interest in our medieval church to help in its conservation and upkeep. About 60 households, mainly in the village but some further afield, are in membership and we are very appreciative of all the support we receive in cash and kind.

In the last year we have continued with our programme of window restoration. The two windows in the north aisle have been finished. In the coming year we hope to complete this 10 year plan with the two windows in the south aisle and a small window near the altar.

Mobility Scooter Information Afternoon

Hethersett and the Meltons Road Safety Committee are arranging a mobility scooter information afternoon on Thursday 22nd April, in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall, 2.30 - 4.30pm. Isabel Coe, chief executive of East Anglian DriveAbility, will give advice about obtaining and using a mobility scooter. A supplier will be bringing along some examples of the types of scooters available. Please come along if you use a mobility scooter, are considering getting one or are just interested. For more information call 811390 or see the Committee's notice board in Hethersett Library.

Primary School update

The School Christmas was as hectic as ever, as well as appearing on BBC Newsround to highlight the need for a safer cycling route to school, three live Christmas play performances instead of the usual two, a visit to the Church and Christmas dinner for 85 children at the Village Inn rounded off 2009 nicely.

2010 started later than usual thanks to the weather, but has quickly gathered pace. The children are learning about 'The Victorians' and will end this term with a visit to the 'Gressenhall Workhouse and Museum'.

Our extended schools provision allows for after school club Monday to Friday, helping those parents who work with an alternative childcare option. Numbers have increased year on year. Holiday clubs are run in every holiday period. It is especially pleasing that first year admissions continue to be very strong, proving the school to be a very popular choice, not only for the community but for those out of catchment also.

Oil Economy Group

After the longest spell of winter that we have seen for at least 30 years, we successfully ordered 109,500 litres in February, at a cost of 36.50 pence per litre [plus Vat at 5%], which was at least a 6 pence per litre saving for people who ordered 500 litres. This is an average saving of at least £30. It makes sense to order through the Oil Group.

Order forms are available from the Village Shop. Next ordering date is 4th of May.

For more information contact John Sanders 810720 or John Copson 810142.