

Down to Business.....

Precept

The parish precept has been increased by 2.75% to cover the increased costs of services – details are at little-melton.org.uk. It is only possible to keep the precept this low because parishioners volunteer to help with jobs such as play area maintenance and litter picking. There is an ever increasing burden on parish councils – please consider how you could help with maintenance or administrative tasks. We would like to hear from you!

Lorry Traffic

Four people complained to the PC about increased lorry and van traffic through the village. Several members of the PC have conducted spot checks and did not catch any vehicles contravening the restricted section of Burnthouse Lane. Please get in touch if you would like to help with a full scale traffic survey and with the Speedwatch scheme that would allow us to record speeding offences.

Village Sign

Stewart Cable has kindly repainted the village sign and a new name plate has been carved - the old one had rotted after 30 years out in the rain. Thanks go to Wilf Chamberlain for his help in removing the sign. Unfortunately it was discovered that the post had rotted and that the base was cracked. John Symonds and Derek Sutton removed the old base and John is doing significant work in rectifying this and it is hoped to have a new base and post installed as soon weather conditions permit.

For the Diary....

- 6th Jan** Epiphany Bring & Share Supper 6.00pm At the Church
- 10th Jan** Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
- 28th Jan** Quiz Night 7.30pm Village Hall
- 6th Feb** Toadwatch Meeting 8.00 pm Village Inn
- 7th Feb** Oil Economy Group last ordering day.
- 14th Feb** Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
- 13th Mar** Annual Parish Meeting All Parishioners welcome 7.30pm Village Hall
- 24th Mar** Litter Pick & Playground Maintenance 11.00am Village Hall

Apr 2012 *Next Newsletter*

Parish Council contacts:

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

Chair: John Heaser
01603 812472
chair@little-melton.org.uk

Details of a Probus club for professional people over 60 have been added to little-melton.org.uk – or contact Richard Land on 01603-812332. Please let the clerk know if you would like a not for profit organization listed at little-melton.org.uk.



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Parish Council would like to wish you all the very best for 2012

Hethersett Development

An outline planning application was submitted in November for approximately 1200 houses to the north of Hethersett. If done properly this could actually reduce traffic through Little Melton, however there is also the potential for a massive increase in traffic. Members of the Parish Council have done their best to read the 1000's of pages in this application and have submitted comments that seek to protect LM from rat running and to provide safe cycle routes to school and places of work. Full details are at little-melton.org.uk

Parish Meeting (March 13th)

This is an informal meeting and all parishioners are welcome attend. The main topic for open discussion will be the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan that will build on the 2006 Parish Plan. The new plan will set out how parishioners wish to see the village develop. Please come if you would like to help frame this plan. Please let the Clerk know in advance if you wish to raise other topics for discussion.

Norfolk Police joined in the **National Day of Action Against Metal Theft** on the 14th December and asks communities to remain vigilant and report any suspicious persons or vehicles around churches, community centres, rural out-buildings and garages where such thefts could take place.

Community intelligence is key to tackling this type of crime - any suspicious behaviour should be called in to police by dialling **101**, or **999** if a crime is in progress. If you have any information about metal theft call Norfolk Police on **101** or Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

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

Little Melton Church

Christmas continues at Little Melton Church until Epiphany Friday 6th January at 6.00pm. There will be a short service to mark the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem. The collection for Star Throwers - a cancer supporting charity in Wymondham, will be made. There will then be a bring and share supper; everyone is welcome. No booking or tickets or cost but please bring a plate of savoury food or salad to share. Baked potatoes, drinks and puddings are provided.

On Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm at Little Melton Village Hall we shall have our annual quiz; cheese, pickles etc. are provided but drinks you bring (and glasses). £5 for adults and £1 accompanied children. No booking - pay on the night. In aid of Church Funds. We are told our refreshments are "the best!!!"

Litter Pick and Playground work party.

Please come along to the Village Hall on the 24th of March at 11:00 and help tidy up the village and the play ground. Litter pickers, bags and hi viz jackets will be provided but please bring gloves and wear stout shoes. We also like to give the play area a clean-up, so those of you who have children or grandchildren who use the parish play area, and would like it to remain please come and help.

A **Facebook** group has been set up to enable the PC to make announcements in-between these quarterly newsletters. Parishioners are welcome to raise topics for discussion on the group. There is a link on little-melton.org.uk.

LITTLE MELTON OIL ECONOMY GROUP

If you are leaving Little Melton, please leave an order form for the new occupants. We are still ordering over 100,000 litres most quarters, so if you are not a member why not join us and save your hard earned money.

Next ordering date is Tuesday 7th February 2012. Order forms are available from the Village Store. If you require any information please call one of us; John Sanders 810720; John Copson 810142 or Edwina Clarke 812260

Toadwatch

Little Melton is fortunate to have a large population of toads and rare Great Crested newts. However many are lost when they cross the road during their spring migration. Volunteers, who help the animals cross safely, will be meeting at the Village Inn on Mon Feb 6th at 20:00. Come along for a chat if you would like to help in 2012. Full details are on toadwatch.org

Newsletter published by
Little Melton Parish Council. Habitat,
16 Braymeadow Lane,
Little Melton,
Norwich, Norfolk

PARISH news

Little Melton Primary School

In October we were visited by Ofsted Inspectors who spent two days with us.

They agreed that we are a 'good' school and judged us outstanding for pupils' behaviour, attendance and the extent to which pupils feel safe. We are delighted with the outcome and believe this is excellent recognition for all the hard work that staff, children and Governors do to make this school a wonderful place to engage growing minds.

In November we were very pleased to welcome Keith Drinkwater, who lives locally, to our Governing body as 'Community Governor'.

Little Melton Pre-School Nursery

The nursery has enjoyed another busy festive season, especially being part of the church decoration event again this year, and watching the nativity play at the primary school. It is always lovely to feel part of our wider community in the village.

The committee is continuing to plan a lot of fundraising events for the New Year and spring including a Zumba one-off session on a Saturday to burn off all those Christmas calories!, another table top sale, quiz evening and much more - look out for the notices. Any money raised by these events is totally spent on improving the facilities and activities we offer, so we always really appreciate the support we get.

Just a reminder - although we are currently full for this academic year we are taking bookings for the year beginning in September 2012. Prospective parents and children are always welcome to pop in for a visit, there is no need to pre-book simply come along when we are open - Term-time - each weekday morning 9.15 to 12.15.