

Dogmersfield Newsletter

Edition 13

April 2006

WELCOME

Welcome to the spring 2006 edition of the Dogmersfield Parish Newsletter. With any luck spring will have finally begun with daffodils beginning to flower. We have much to tell you about in this latest edition and as always we are keen to hear about any items that you would like to see included in future editions of the newsletter.



RETIREMENT OF FELIX LISTER AND WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

Some of you may already be aware that Felix (Elizabeth) Lister retired from her role as a Parish Councillor on 13th March.

Alastair Clark writes "Felix has been a Parish Councillor longer than I have and it has been a pleasure working with her on the council since my election in 1994. Her intelligent contributions, incisive views on village life and dedication to the community have been invaluable to the Council. We are all sorry to say goodbye to her and doubtless we will be calling on her experience and expertise in the future. I am sure that you will want to join the Parish Councillors in thanking Felix for all her hard work and wish her well in the future."

Upon the retirement of Felix a casual vacancy was advertised on the Parish notice boards and at the Parish Council meeting held on 4th April the remaining Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt Peter Curnow-Ford on to the Parish Council with effect from our next full meeting which is to be held on 18th May. We thank Peter for volunteering to join the Council, wish him well and look forward to working with him.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

We would like to invite you to Dogmersfield Parish Council's Annual Parish Assembly which is being held in the school on **Tuesday, 18th April 2006, at 7.45pm.**

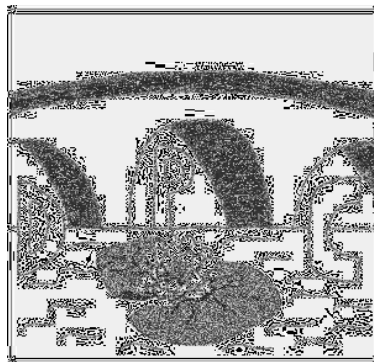
The main purpose of the Assembly is to review the work done during the past year and discuss plans for the coming year.

Our District and County Councillors have been invited to give reports of their work.

This will be a fairly informal meeting to encourage community participation and light refreshments will be served from 7.15pm.

If you are planning to attend, it would be helpful if you could advise either Ann Goddard (01252 628975) or Alastair Clark (01252 615498) so that we can cater accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

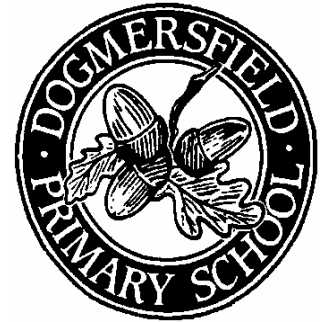


ODIHAM TO FARNHAM ROAD (A287) LAY-BY

The Parish Council has established a working party to address the serious concerns that have been raised regarding the tipping of rubbish and other activities in the lay-by.

A meeting is planned with the Hampshire Highways Engineers to discuss the various options that may be available for dealing with this problem.

DOGMERSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Recently some of the pupils at the school prepared a school newspaper and part of the exercise was to interview people within the community including our Parish Council Chairman. This is an extract from the interview with Alastair Clark, published in the school newspaper.

"Mr. Alastair Clark, chairman of the Parish Council, kindly came in to school to be interviewed by our editorial team on the work of the council.

He explained that a parish is the smallest area of government, the bottom layer if you like – but it is also the one nearest to the people.

The council meets every five to six weeks and the meetings are open to the public. They are held in our school hall. There are five parish councillors who are unpaid volunteers, and a part time clerk. Every year the Parish Council decides on a budget. This is usually around £5,000 a year and includes the Clerk's salary.

You have to live or work in the parish in order to be elected to the council and each councillor is responsible for a different job, which includes looking after the finances; the footpaths and 'rights of way'; the traffic islands, roads and verges.

The council also liaises with the local community. For example, they are involved in our plan (the school's) to try and lessen the amount of traffic we have outside the school in the mornings and afternoons.

The council also deals with Planning issues. Mr Clark explained that Dogmersfield is in a Conservation Area and the council makes recommendations to Hart District council on every planning application – including the chopping down and pruning of trees! In fact the council deals with everything that effects our environment. There has to be some progress in every village but the main question is always ‘will it look good?’ or ‘will it harm the village?’

There is an Annual Parish Assembly – a meeting where everyone is welcome and anyone can participate, be told what is happening, and ask questions.

Mr Clark enjoys his job very much and says it is very rewarding to be part of a team which looks after the village.”

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING AT DOGMERSFIELD PARK



Depending on where exactly in Dogmersfield Parish (and adjacent Odiham & Winchfield Parishes) you reside, many of you will have noticed, since mid-2005, an increase in the frequency of Clay Pigeon shooting activity at the Four Seasons Hotel. To some this was a nuisance, to others it could not be heard. In early December 2005 the Four Seasons Hotel applied to extend shooting from the permitted 28 days a year to 6 days a week, 52 weeks per year with a maximum of 13 butts.

The general view across all parishes, as shown by the over 60 objections lodged with Hart DC, was too big, too much, and not in keeping with a rural setting. Subsequently the Hotel withdrew its application in late January.

We can expect a renewed application in 2006 and hope it is more in keeping with the rural nature of Dogmersfield, the canal, sites of special interest and for all the residents who live in the area.

LOCAL CRIME

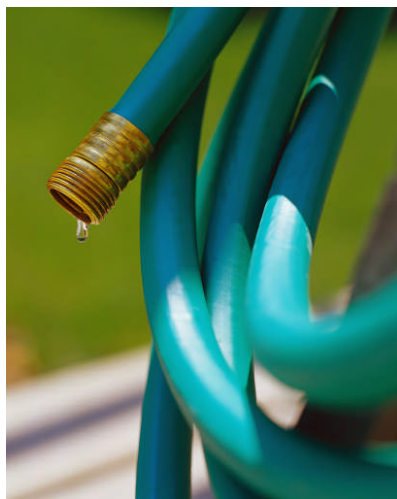


Unfortunately there has been some criminal activity in the village in the last few months. The stables next to the school were broken into and a car was stolen from Pilcot Farm.

Community Beat Police Officer, PC Alex Batten, has urged everybody to be aware of security issues and in particular to report registration numbers and other details of any vehicles acting suspiciously. Please telephone Sue Gibson at Hook Neighbourhood Watch Centre on 01256 760 800

HOSE PIPE BAN

South East Water has asked us to remind you that a hose pipe ban is in force in this area of North East Hampshire. The ban will continue until there is enough rainfall for the company to be confident that it has sufficient supplies to meet demands for water next summer.



The ban prohibits the use of hose pipes for watering private gardens and washing private vehicles. It also prohibits the use of garden sprinklers, which use as much water in an hour as a family of 6 does in a day!

You can find more information about the ban and how to save water at www.southeastwater.co.uk or by telephoning 0845 602 1724

HART NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

There is a new Neighbourhood Centre located at Dickson House, London Road, Hook, which holds regular and free advice surgeries on topics such as housing, home safety and security and planning.

The local Police also have an office in the building which is open to the community at certain times.

More detailed information regarding the activities, including dates, will be displayed on the Parish notice boards on a monthly basis.

TRAFFIC ISLAND PLANTING

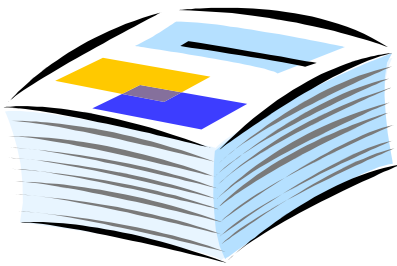


You will have noticed by now that the traffic islands in the village have been planted with bulbs and hardy shrubs.

The Parish Council has agreed a maintenance schedule with a local contractor and we are hoping that, despite the adverse conditions, the plants will flourish. We will, however, need to water the islands regularly during the summer months.

If you have a traffic island close to your property, it would be an enormous help to the Parish Council and the rest of the community if you could water it once in a while to help ensure that the plants continue to grow!

PARISH PLAN



The Parish Plan is nearing the final draft stage and we have been fortunate to receive a small grant from DEFRA to fund the project.

We are therefore delighted to be able to announce that we will be holding a consultation exercise on **Saturday September 9th 2006 at Winchfield Village Hall.**

This will be a social evening and we are very much hoping that **most** of the village will be able to attend. We will be providing refreshments and you will have a chance to comment on the draft (which will have been delivered to each household during the previous month). We hope to present the final version of the plan to Hart DC in November for inclusion in the Local Development Framework.

Please put this date in your diary now. More information will be sent to you nearer the time.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH DOGMERSFIELD



The Friends of All Saints' Dogmersfield (FOASD) has been formed to provide a means by which local people and those from far away can help to preserve this lovely church. Many have celebrated happy moments in their lives here (weddings and baptisms) or perhaps at sadder times come to say

goodbye to friends and loved ones who are buried in the churchyard.

In between, whether they attend services regularly or not, many will come to this church to celebrate the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas, or congregate here on occasions of national importance such as Remembrance Sunday.

Whatever the reason, we know that many have affection for All Saints' and would like to play a part in preserving it for future generations in the same way that it has been passed down to them to use.

This is an opportunity to do so and to support continuance of the worship that gives this unique church its purpose and meaning.

The Church really would appreciate your support and invites you to become a member of FOASD to help ensure that All Saints' Church will be with us for a very long time to come. Please contact any member of the church PCC or our Parish Clerk for more details.

Here are some forthcoming dates for your diaries.

Easter Sunday April 16th – Holy Communion - 10.30am.

Sunday 25th June – Family pet Service – 10.30 am.

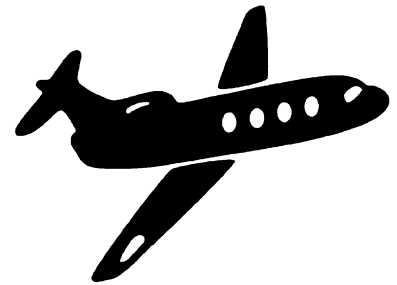
For dates and times of services at other times of the year please see the Parish notice boards or the calendar within your copy of Contact magazine which is distributed throughout the parish.

PROPOSED HALL FOR THE SCHOOL

Dogmersfield Primary School is one of very few in Hampshire without a school hall. Funding negotiations have been ongoing for several years and the governors are pleased to report that the project has finally been allocated the majority of the funds needed to build a hall. (although 10% of these funds will have to be raised by the governing body). The school will be holding various fundraising activities in its attempt to achieve the contribution required which may be as much as £50,000.

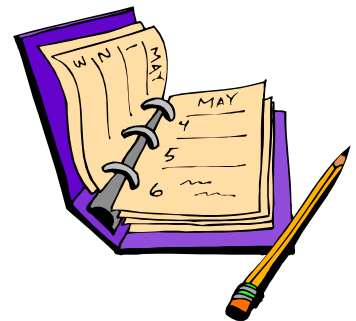
Plans are being drawn up and the school will shortly be applying for planning permission.

FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT NOISE



Farnborough Airport Authority have applied to dramatically increase the number of flights allowed at weekends and bank holidays. The parish council, along with many other organisations, is of the opinion that noise pollution created by aircraft movements is already intrusive and have therefore strongly objected to this application.

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

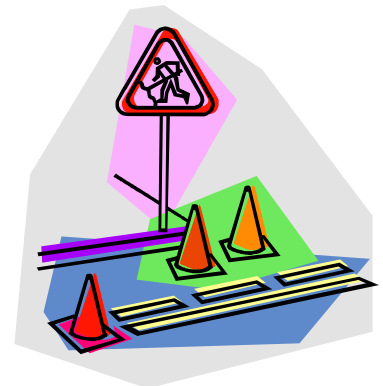


Annual Parish Assembly – 18th April 2006

Annual General Meeting – 18th May 2006

Parish Plan Social evening – 9th September 2006

PAVEMENT REPAIRS IN CHALKY LANE



A number of residents on Chalky Lane have expressed concern about the damage to and erosion of the pavement by heavy lorries.

We have told Hampshire Highways about this problem and they have advised the Parish Council that repairs will be carried out during the coming year.

HITCHES LANE APPEAL

Many of you will know that the Parish Council and other groups objected strongly to the building of up to 300 houses and associated facilities on this side of Hitches Lane. Sadly after refusal of the planning applications, an appeal and subsequent challenge to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister the developer has been granted permission. Hart District Council, with the support of your Parish Council and the other groups has now decided to pursue a High Court challenge to the Secretary of State's decision to grant planning permission. We can only hope that this challenge will be successful and that the proposed development will not go ahead.

VILLAGE BARBEQUE



Most people who responded to the Parish Plan Questionnaire were positively in favour of holding more community social events. To that end we are liaising with Dogmersfield Cricket Club and will be holding a joint Barbeque on **Saturday 22nd July 2006** at the cricket ground. We hope that as many of you as possible will come and if the evening is a success we would very much like to make this an annual village event.

Do please support this initiative if you can! We will be distributing more information, including ticket costs, times and booking details, closer to the date.

SOUTH EAST PLAN

A huge thank you to everybody who responded to our request for help in objecting to the extra housing burden being placed on this area by the proposals outlined in the South East Plan.

A further draft of the plan has now been published for consultation and the housing quota for Hart district is far less than the original recommendation.

It seems likely that housing numbers will stay at the same, or possibly even lower, levels than the last few years.

We are grateful to everybody who wrote to object; for the support of our MP James Arbuthnot; and the representations of our District and County Councillors.

The link below will take you to the text of the South East Plan.

<http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/>

Have your say on the Plan until 5pm on 23 June 2006. The consultation is on behalf of an independent panel of inspectors. Fill in and return the response form on the website to make your views known.

We have an indicative timetable for an Examination in Public leading to expected Government approval of a final South East Plan in early 2008.



Hampshire
County Council

INFORMATION CENTRES

WHATEVER YOUR QUESTION
ABOUT PUBLIC SERVICES IN
HAMPSHIRE

WHY NOT CONTACT US ON OUR
FREE HELPLINE?

0800 028 0888

Email: info.centres@hants.gov.uk

Textphone: 0808 100 24 84
(for customers with hearing or
speech difficulties)

SMS TEXT Messaging:
07797 877 010

www.hants.gov.uk/info

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Your Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:-

Alastair Clark

Chairman and planning group co-ordinator
Pippins, Chatter Alley
Telephone 01252 615498
Alastair@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Yvonne Beaven

Finance Officer
Church Rise, Church Lane
Telephone 01252 614045
Yvonne@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Christine Lowe

Environment & Road Safety
(Footpaths, Flood management plans, rights
of way, open spaces & commons)
The Red House, Chatter Alley
Telephone 01252 811218
Christine@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Mike Ricketts

Vice Chairman and Traffic Management
(including calming & speed limits)
Sayang, Church Lane
Telephone 01252 810689
Mike@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Peter Curnow-Ford

(New Parish Councillor taking up office from
18th May 2006)
South Lodge, Dogmersfield Park,
Farnham Road, Odiham,
Hampshire RG29 1HR
Telephone 07973 668131
Peter@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

Ann Goddard

Clerk to the Council
Rose Glen
Pilcot Road
Crookham Village
GU51 5RU
Telephone 01252 628975
Clerk@Dogmersfieldparish.co.uk

AND FINALLY

Please do contact us if you have any suggestions or concerns about the Parish or items of interest for a future Newsletter.

We really do like to hear from you especially if you have something good to tell us.

We all look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings or other events that are taking place within the Parish.