

OTHER CONTACT DETAILS

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YOUR COUNCIL MEETS APPROX EVERY
SIX WEEKS. THE DATES FOR THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

6TH APRIL 2009

18TH MAY 2009

(The Annual Parish Meeting will
take place at 7.00pm immediately
before the Annual Parish Council
Meeting)

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST.
CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HALL
BLACKPOOL RD LEA

COMMENCING AT 7.30PM
(Please enter by the rear door)

THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
AND LISTEN TO THE DEBATE AND
DECISION MAKING PROCESS

(A period for public
participation is allowed)

YOUR COUNCILLORS

COTTAM WARD

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56 THE GABLES
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MRS SYBRA EDWARDS
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MRS NORA WARD
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SOUTH WARD

MR ALEX BUTLER
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SOUTH WARD (CONT)

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MR PETER JONES
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PARISH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

LENGTHSMAN WORKS

During the last few weeks residents have noticed and favourably commented on the improvements to the open space areas around Cottam resulting from the low level maintenance works being undertaken by Peter the parish lengthsman. Cutting back grass verges to widen paths and the clearance of brick areas which had become overgrown have featured amongst the work undertaken. Some fences have been treated with preservative and all in all some areas have been transformed so much that one resident asked 'whether royalty were due to visit the area' since maintenance at this level had not been done for years. There is more to do and Peter will as part of his role continue the works which have already so successfully started.



PRECEPT 2009/2010

The Parish Council recently set its Precept for 2009/2010 and committed to continuing the improvement to local services which have been a feature of recent years. The monies raised will be greater than last year as a result of the additional works now undertaken by the lengthsman in the parish and provision has been made for a further Christmas tree in the Cottam area in 2009 which was reported in the last newsletter of 2008.

The Precept has been set at £38000 which represents an increase of £6200 against the previous year. This represents a Council Tax charge of approx £18.37 per annum household. It is expected that a portion of this will continue to be supported by Preston City Council who provided a maximum of £7.50 per Band 'D' property last year. This would if repeated and based on last years band 'D' properties reduce the figure to £11.01 per property in 2009/10.

A forecast average increase of less than 6p per week will allow the Parish Council to continue providing enhanced services a few of which are highlighted below:

- Low level maintenance of public open spaces in Cottam
- Grass cutting on Miller Green and in the Dodney Drive areas
- Identification & tidying of grot spots in the parish
- Additional litter picking.
- Maintenance of local public rights of way
- Hanging Baskets for Lea Town
- Christmas Tree at St Christophers
- Christmas Tree in Cottam (provisional)
- Driver road speed awareness using the SPID

WESTLEIGH HOUSE TO GET A FACELIFT

At the time of going to press a planning application has been submitted by the University of Central Lancashire to refurbish and extend Westleigh House to form a Conference Centre and Banqueting Facility. This site has undergone significant changes over the last 5 decades which was between 1864 and 1956 the private residence of Adam Leigh a prominent mill owner, his wife and 13 children. Purchased by LCC in 1957 it was the Regional Civil Defence HQ until 1968 during which time the sunken garden completely disappeared and the County Council 'War Control' was built on it. In 1968 it became the LCC Health Dept, later the Regional Health Authority and towards 1974 the LCC Emergency Planning unit with the County Emergency Centre in the basement. In 2007 the LCC finally vacated and relocated the EP unit to the Red Rose Hub. The proposals if agreed will breathe new life into this historic building providing expansion of the University facilities, additional teaching facilities and 'off campus' dining and banquet facilities whilst still retaining its original and commanding appearance in the locality.

WOULD YOU LIKE THIS ON YOUR FRONT DOOR STEP?



The answer is probably no however for some of our residents in the Sheffield Drive area this is a reality with the area often looking like a land fill site. Complaints by local residents through the Jubilee Action Group have drawn attention to the problem and action has been taken by the Parish Council both directly by deploying their lengthsman and by also making Preston City Council aware of the situation.

This is by no means the only site within the Parish which sees either fly tipping or the accumulation of litter left unattended. Littering is a criminal offence and anyone caught could be issued with a fixed penalty ticket of £75.00 or indeed if the matter is taken to court a maximum fine of £2500. If people did not drop litter then it would not have to be cleared up and with waste bins provided and sited in prominent spots there is an easy way for the public to dispose of their litter.

Fly tipping is the illegal practice of dumping unwanted items in the environment. If someone is caught fly tipping or if waste from their property is found 'fly tipped' they can be fined up to £50000 or face possible imprisonment.

Preston City Council are keen to make Preston the cleanest city in Britain and the Parish Council have already requested that residents identify and report details of local grot spots.

- You can help by not undertaking any of the practices highlighted above.
- You can also help by reporting either by telephone or 'on line' incidents of accumulated litter or fly tipping including details of whom might have perpetrated the offence.

The responses from PCC are generally good so there is no reason why you should have the view from your home that has been evident in the Sheffield Drive area or live in an environment full of litter.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT:

Phone the litter line on 01772 906909 or use the on line form @ www.preston.gov.uk (a link is available on the home page and the form is simple to complete)

DUCK WOMAN

(A story of Duck Folk)



One morning last summer what should be seen on the driveway of one of our local residents but a mother duck and its babies who had migrated down from the local pond on Parkside. Looking so cute they were fed and as a result an immediate attachment was made to Kath and her partner. Since they had come down the road Kath accompanied them back to the pond so as to ensure their safety. Next day low and behold they turned up again and a similar ritual took place 'feed and return' so much so that they started to visit 3 times a day. Kath's partner surname 'Partridge' certainly had an affinity towards them and he built a non slip ramp so that they could access a sand pit filled with water which Kath provided for them.

After 7 weeks of daily trips to accompany the ducks back to the pond the locals have now nicknamed Kath as 'Duck Woman' an appropriate name for someone who is looking out for their safety and who was amazed that they would walk all the way down on their own and then wait to be escorted back. Car drivers were regularly flagged to slow down to avoid the procession and clearly the word was spread with 23 ducks having been seen at one time at the pond. Kath fed them regularly by purchasing duck pellets and corn (bread is simply not good for them) and whilst she knew that eventually they would fly away she continued to enjoy her daily trips to the pond knowing that each trip might be the last; at least until this year when they hopefully will return in search of their creature comforts.

