



PARISH NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2009



A WORD FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

I am delighted to have been elected Chairman of Lea and Cottam Parish Council. I look forward to continuing the excellent work of my predecessor, Lena, and working with a committed team of councillors supported by our efficient and professional clerk. This has been a productive year with the council pursuing many initiatives, as is evident from the Chairman's Report for 2008/9 which follows. The Council will continue to serve the needs of all residents and to be responsive to their views.

Cllr. Margaret Clegg,
Chairman



THE JUBILEE ACTION GROUP DELIVER THEIR FIRST EVENT

Readers of this newsletter may well recall that last year the Parish Council undertook a consultation exercise to establish the local response to providing youth facilities by way of a Multi Use Games Area on Jubilee Park recreation ground.

Facilitated by the Parish Council an 'Action Group' was established with a view to taking this idea forward and seeking to obtain external funding for its completion.

Since that time the 'Action Group' have established a 'Trust' and have engaged with Community Futures with regard to developing the idea. One of the requisites to obtaining funding however is the need for applicants to establish their credentials and the 'Trust' have therefore looked at many other smaller projects as a way of doing this and which will also be of benefit to the local community.

In the pipe line already is a tour of Manchester United F.C. for local youths and the provision hopefully later this year of a proper football field with goal posts on the recreation ground itself something that local residents have been seeking for some time. The starter however was a trip to Martin Mere which was undertaken with a group of local children who had a very enjoyable day touring the site and getting to know more about the species currently resident there.



A photograph of the group is shown above. It is hoped that this event will be the first of many.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community Project organisers may not be aware of some of the local grants that are available to assist with community projects.

The **LCC Climate Change Fund** supports community projects on climate change aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A diverse range of projects includes such things as the insulation of community buildings, installation of solar panels to supply hot water and electricity, ground source heat pumps, wood pellet heating systems in community buildings and using alternative forms of transport to the car. Longton Ladybirds Kindergarten was able to obtain substantial funding for insulation to reduce electricity consumption from this fund. For more details telephone 01772 531257

Organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors can apply for funding under the **LCC Gateway Grants Scheme**. All projects must demonstrate how they would benefit the well-being of the community. Guy's Farm Activity Centre, regularly used by Guides/Scouts and other youth groups throughout the County have been awarded Gateway funding. For further details telephone 01257 263254

In addition the **LCC Green Partnership Awards Scheme** can also make funding available up to £500.00 for smaller environmentally friendly projects. For further details telephone 01772 530650

If you are undertaking a local project why not contact these organisations to see if assistance is available or access the LCC web site @ www.lancashire.gov.uk

In addition small grants may be obtained through the local County Councillor, who has a small annual budget. Under this scheme New Longton Methodist Church was awarded £350 for its 'Food for Thought' project.

Preston City Council Western Area Forum also has funding available. Why not contact your local City Councillor to see what might be available or visit www.preston.gov.uk



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Saturday 9th May 2009 saw the first ever Cottam Gala. The event which was supported by a donation towards its running costs from the Parish Council started with a procession from the Ancient Oak to Cottam Primary School where the Rose Queens were crowned. Despite the adverse weather conditions many residents and local groups took part in the procession accompanied by the Preston Scout Band. The Gala itself was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Preston Cllr Christine Abram and the Community Centre provided beverages whilst cream teas and ices were available from the school. The weather did improve as the afternoon went on. Many stalls and attractions were available and a cheerleading demonstration was put on for the many who attended this historic event. Attendance was high and all in all the event proved to be a fantastic afternoon for local residents. It is hoped this event will become a regular annual feature for the Cottam area.



LEA GALA 18TH JUNE 2009

Lea Gala is once again to be hosted by Lea Community Primary School and will take place at the school in the afternoon of Thursday the 18th June 2009. The event will be opened by the Mayor of Preston City Council and will include all the usual fete type activities which have become part of this long established event.

The Parish Council this year, as part of the celebrations, have decided to sponsor a competition for the pupils of Lea Community Primary School.

The competition is based on 'School Values' and every pupil will be invited to design and submit a poster reflecting what 'School Values' means to them and why they are so important. Book token prizes have been donated by the Parish Council for each of the six years at Lea Community School. It is expected that the Parish Council will choose the winners for each year and the prizes will be presented on Gala Day by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Hopefully it will be a warm and sunny afternoon although whatever the weather there will be plenty to do and a good afternoon should be enjoyed by all.



DOG FOULING



A number of complaints have been received recently and it is therefore perhaps once again appropriate to make a request to owners to clean up after their pets. Failure to do so is an offence and can result in fines and whilst hopefully it will not be necessary to go to this end, owners do need to be aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Residents themselves have a part to play in keeping our streets clean and tidy and in the unfortunate circumstances where dog fouling is left unattended by the owner residents are able to report the matter with full details of the owner to Preston City Council whose dog wardens will take appropriate action. Even the identification of the type of dog and the times at which the offences occur may be sufficient for the warden to take action in some way.

PLEASE DO YOUR BIT WHETHER AS AN OWNER OR MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND HELP TO KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN, TIDY AND HEALTHY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.





ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2009



**THE FOLLOWING PAGES
CONTAIN THE CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT, FINANCIAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL FOR 2008/9**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/9

It has been a great privilege to be the Chairman of Lea and Cottam Parish Council. Many things have happened during what has been a very busy year. The Council has supported the development of new housing at New House Farm, raised resident awareness of litter and dog fouling issues, facilitated the setting up of the Jubilee Action Group who are now seeking funding to develop the recreation ground facilities adjacent to Sheffield Drive and committed further funding to increase low level maintenance in the open space areas around Cottam. All this in addition to the open space maintenance that it already undertakes on Miller Green, the Dodney Drive Greens and areas of Lea Town. The provision of hanging baskets in Lea Town was a summer feature and the Christmas tree at St Christophers was once again a welcoming sight coming into the parish. Plans for next year include a Christmas tree in Cottam and whilst it does seem strange writing about Christmas trees in Spring we do however feel this will be a delight to the children of Cottam Primary school and bring Christmas cheer to the December darkness

As I now prepare to hand over to the next Chairman, I am also preparing to leave Cottam during the summer which will mean my resignation from the Parish Council. I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years with the council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the councillors and the clerk for their support during that time. I wish them all and every one of you reading this newsletter every good wish for the future.

Lena Talbot (Chairman of Lea and Cottam Parish Council 2008/9)

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008/9

The Responsible Financial Officer was able to report a healthy position with regard to the Council's finances at the recent APCM. Income was in line with the revised budget accepted in September 2008 apart from interest received which was higher than originally budgeted for. It was mentioned that due to recent falls in interest rates the amount received next year will be significantly below this figure and probably below the 2009/10 budget forecast.

Expenditure was broadly in line with the revised budget. Increased donations have been made to local groups this year and the amount of VAT paid was greater than envisaged (this will be reclaimed in the next financial year)

The resultant balance carried forward is slightly in excess of £10000 which leaves the Council in a strong position to meet its future budgeted commitments and consider additional projects and/or service improvements as may be forthcoming in the next 12 months.

A satisfactory independent Internal Audit has been carried out prior to the Accounts being sent to the External Auditor for final sign off.

A detailed summary of the accounts is shown on the next page.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

OTHER CONTACT DETAILS

INCOME		
Balance b/f 1st April 2008		12215.47
Precept	31800.00	
Bank Interest	637.98	
V A T Recovered	1000.53	
LCC Lengthsman	963.00	
Other Income	114.34	
		46731.32
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Donations - S137	1140.00	
Donation Burial Ground	100.00	
Hire of Hall for Meetings	175.00	
Training	60.00	
Subscriptions/Registrations	761.68	
Lengthsman	8993.00	
Insurance	653.60	
Materials Bulbs etc	665.16	
VAT recoverable	828.93	
Clerk salary	12249.96	
Clerk Office Allow	500.00	
H & S Ladder re SPID	153.00	
Lea Gala Costs	73.49	
National Insurance	872.19	
Postage, Telephone & Stationery	630.82	
Petrol Costs	353.18	
Photocopying	238.08	
Ground Maintenance	1950.00	
Audit	375.00	
Newsletter	1225.00	
Pendant	35.65	
Xmas Tree	1225.00	
Hanging Baskets	450.00	
Lea Lane Speed Reduction	2339.54	
Spid Accessories	65.00	
Waste Carrier Licence	149.00	
Total		36262.28
Balance in hand		10469.04

COTTAM WARD

MR JOHN COWARD
56 THE GABLES
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TEL 01772 727574

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MRS NORA WARD
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SOUTH WARD

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SOUTH WARD (CONT)

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LEA TOWN

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Thanks are extended to Cllrs. Edwards, Clarke and Talbot who have recently resigned from the Council. Their contribution over many years has been much appreciated and we wish them well for the future. Arrangements are in hand to find their replacements.

CLERK: BILL MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE
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YOUR COUNCIL MEETS APPROX EVERY
SIX WEEKS. THE DATES FOR THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

29 JUNE 2009
7 SEPTEMBER 2009
12 OCTOBER 2009

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)