

Preston Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2008

Here is the Autumn Newsletter, sorry its a bit late, many contributors have been away on late holidays. You will see it is only eight pages long this time, we're saving ourselves for a bumper issue at Christmas! There are contributions from the Village Society, Parish Council and the School. The recipe this issue is for Christmas Pudding. We will be looking for contributions for the Christmas issue, latest date for inclusion will be 29th November 2008. Please contact me on 01227 722677 if you want to put something in.

Editor



Village Society - October 2008.

I am pleased to report that we formally became the Preston and Elmstone Village Society on 9th July 2008. Exciting, isn't it? I am sorry to report that our initial progress has been slower than expected, this principally due to a combination of the committee members taking summer holiday's (having been away three times, yours truly probably being the most guilty – sorry) and the final efforts to bring the Village Design Statement to print and distribution. However, we held an 'Extraordinary' committee meeting in July to pool our thoughts and ideas as to the best way forward for the new society, our conclusions are briefly summarised below.

Most importantly, we were delighted to welcome a new full time committee member, Pip Hazelton, many of you will already know Pip as a member of the Parish Council. If you also would like to be involved, please do contact me or one of the committee members.

It was agreed that the draft constitution for the Village Society and the aims and objectives as previously published would be accepted with some minor amendments. The intention is to seek charity status as this has a number of positive advantages for the society.

The emphasis of the Village Society should be on promoting activities and interests for all age groups and once the VS is established, special

'focus' sub-committees will be formed for different projects. To this end, one of our first actions will be to contact all the existing village organisations to invite them to participate directly in the activities of the new society.

It is our intention to hold a Village Society open day in the village hall to present our ideas and suggestions to the parishioners. Because we are determined to get it right first time, we have formed a short term sub-committee to 'fine tune' our presentation on the open day.

Once we have established the open day format and contacted all the other village organisations, you will receive a letter advising you the details of the proposed first event.

Update on the Action Plan.

As promised, the village society will continue the work of the PPP *Action Plan*, here follows a brief update on the ongoing items.

Helping Others.

Alex Krutnik, the manager of the Canterbury and Herne Bay Volunteer Centre, together with Tessa Woodward (Tessa has been doing the co-ordinating with CHBVC for PPP) attended our committee meeting in June. The main areas of help were confirmed by Alex as being the Transport Scheme, a garden & home maintenance service and the vulnerable volunteer support agency.

It was agreed that the best way to introduce the concept to our community was for Alex to attend our proposed VS open day to be on hand to explain to villagers about volunteering and the services available to those requiring them.

Neighbourhood Watch.

We have just established two new coordinators in Preston, once these people are confirmed you will find the names of these coordinators in the NW News Letter.

Young Persons Facilities.

In the last three months we have succeeded in establishing the a 'Youth Forum' whereby representatives from the Village Society and the Parish Council, together with our PCSO – Katie Parker Brown and Yvonne Holder (DDC youth worker) meet with the youngsters on a regular basis. We hope and believe that by channelling efforts in a positive direction, we will see a major reduction of the anti social behaviour experienced in the parish this year.

Village of the Year Competition.

Unfortunately we did not win but received the *Most Highly Commended* status. In our defence, the villages that did take the honours were much larger with far greater resources and funds than ourselves. Better luck next year.

I think that just about brings you up to date, Don't forget, if you have anything to say in relation to Village Society or the Newsletter, please contact me or the editor.

Village Design Statement.

Everyone should have received their copy of the Village Design Statement by now, it was distributed early in September. We are very pleased with the result, it is a superb document. The VDS team were all delighted with the appearance of the printed document and we have received many favourable comments. Such is our fame that some members of the VDS Committee have given presentations and advice to other parishes to help them to start their own statements, and we have been very pleased to assist them.

We feel it has been a very worthwhile project and everyone who was involved in its production found the whole process very informative and interesting. Congratulations to the whole team!

David Theoff – Chairman Village Society

Here is an extract from one letter we received –

"Many thanks for our copy of the "Village Design Statement" for Preston Parish and congratulations on the high quality of its presentation and content. We have thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful photographs depicting the great variety of architecture, buildings and the materials used; the numerous ways on which we protect our own plots with picket fences, beautiful railings and gates and various hedges etc. Even the local wildlife to be found!

It was also good to read the section printed in red on page 2 (1.2 'Why have a Village Design Statement') which is essential if views of local people are to be heard where planning applications are concerned"

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Speed checks:

At their PACT meeting this year with Kent Police the Parish Council identified traffic speeding through the village as their main concern. Our PCSO Katie Parker-Brown agreed to carry out checks for us to identify the scale of the problem. Two speed checks were carried out in August: the first on Thursday 28th August between 5.00 and 6.00 pm.; the second on Sunday 31st August between 10.00 and 11.00 am.

On the 28th August 159 vehicles were checked. 140 were travelling under the speed limit of 30.mph; 18 were travelling between 30 and 35 mph and 1 was travelling above 35 mph. On the 31st August 70 vehicles were checked: 62 were travelling below the speed limit; 6 were travelling between 30 and 35 mph and two were over this speed. The Council and Police will continue to monitor the speed of traffic through the village and are in discussion with Kent highways services about measures which can be put in place to ensure that all traffic is travelling at the legal speed.

Affordable Rural Housing:

The Government has developed the 'Affordable Rural Housing Scheme' to provide affordable housing for people living in rural areas. The aim of the scheme is to provide rented or shared ownership housing for people connected to the village.

To benefit from this scheme people must have strong links with the village. This would include for example; people living in the village; those with relatives living in the village; those employed in

the village; and young people living in the village who are unable to afford their first home. The Parish Council is seeking to determine whether there is a need for such housing in Preston. There will be a survey carried out by 'Action with Communities in Rural Kent' in the next few months. Further details will be given before this date and the Parish Council encourages everybody to complete this survey; particularly those who would want such housing.

Allotments:

The Council has an allotment site on Mill Lane. At present there are four allotments on the site and the Council believes it may be able to provide more on the unused part of the site. Anybody who would be interested in having an allotment, should more space be available, is asked to contact the clerk Frank Pinnington (01227 728460; email, Frankipin@hotmail.com).

Memorial Benches.

The Council has now placed five benches around the village. Anybody who is interested in sponsoring a bench is asked to contact the Parish Clerk. We ask for a minimum donation of £100 towards the cost and erection of each.

Public Rights of Way Board.

The Council is purchasing a Public Rights of Way Map and Board from KCC which will be placed next to the Parish notice board. We hope that it will be erected in the next few months.

Frank Pinnington

**Your Parish Councillors are:
(all phone numbers are 01227 dial codes)**

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Oliver Chapman (Chairman) | 722162 |
| Mike Fenney (Vice-Chairman) | 722300 |
| Joyce Evans | 722477 |
| Joan Foad | 722438 |
| Pip Hazleton | 721267 |
| Geoff Thomas | 722255 |
| Patricia Simpson | 722677 |
| Clerk Frank Pinnington | 728460 |
| Frankipin@hotmail.com | |

Meetings are held at the village school on the first Friday of each month (excluding August) at 7.30pm.

Youth Forum

As David Theoff mentioned earlier, we have now had four meetings of the Youth Forum. It was very well attended at first, but less so since the new school term has started. The boys asked us to pass on their thanks to the Parish Council for buying the football nets which they have enjoyed using over the school holidays.

The Youth Forum is attended by Pat and John Simpson, Katie Parker Brown our PCSO, Alan Coller and Ollie Chapman when work permits. At the last meeting we talked about a site for the proposed youth shelter and we now have to report back to the Parish Council for their permission and Katie PB also has to get the site and design passed by the Crime Prevention Design Officer.

We also talked about the possibility of a revived Youth Club, and we are investigating a joint project with other local villages. We hope to attend a meeting with Sue Chandler our District Councillor at the District Council Offices to talk to the officers in the Youth Service about how to use the money available to the best possible purpose to get a youth club started up.

The Teen Fusion bus on the last Friday of the month has been very successful, apart from a few teething problems, which should now have been resolved.

When we have more information about the proposed youth club, we would be very pleased to hear from any adults who would be willing to volunteer their help with running it.

If you would be willing to help please let us know on 01227 722677. We would like to recruit six helpers, so that the load can be spread.

Recycling - kerbside collection

Sep-25
Oct-09
Oct-23
Nov-06
Nov-20
Dec-04
Dec-18

Preston School News

Preston Goes Green



The children of Preston School are collecting Lets Grow Vouchers from Morrisons. These vouchers can be exchanged for gardening equipment and seeds. The gardening club, run by Mrs Roberts, is well underway with the children planting vegetables, such as broad beans, and



bulbs in the tubs. We are lucky to have two different garden areas. The Millennium Garden can be used by everyone during playtime and the wild life garden is used for environmental club and science lessons.

The vouchers are available to collect from Morrisons until the 6th November 2008 and can be donated to the school. All donations will be gratefully received and will help the children to get some new equipment.



New Children To Preston

The new Reception children have settled well into Class 4. They are all staying all day at school now. They are enjoying their topic 'All About Me' and are learning about and using their senses.

This week the children have been making musical instruments and learning about the deaf and hard of hearing. We will be having a visitor to teach the children some sign language.





The Olympics at Preston

To celebrate the Olympics coming to London in 2012 Preston School held their own mini Olympics on the 1st October. The activities the children took part in were similar to the games that were played in the first Olympics in Ancient Greece. Some examples were running, javelin, hurdles, discus, shot put and finally the tug of war. The weather was unsettled

but the children were determined to carry on and by the time they took part in the tug of war the sun was shining again. This proved to be the most popular event with the children from year 3 and 4 competing together and then year 5 and 6.

The children had a really fun afternoon and received their certificate at the end of the day. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Ian Hall, Our SSCO, for coming into Preston and organising the event.

Many other sporting events are taking place this term. The children from Class One have been training for a tag rugby festival in Deal on Monday 6th October. KS2 children will also be taking part in the first of the Thanet Cross Country League on Saturday October 11th at Newington Primary School.



Love in a Box

Once again it is time for us to think about those less fortunate than ourselves. Christmas is coming already and we are delighted to support

"The Love In The Box 2008 Appeal", as it makes such a difference to children's lives. I know from comments, how much making a box means to the children, and how much they enjoy giving to others. This is the fifth year that we have supported "The Mustard Seed Mission" in



the "Living to make a difference" campaign. So far we have sent over 400 boxes to very poor children.. if anyone in the village would like to make a box then please hand into Preston School, where they will be gratefully received. The more boxes produced means another happy child who would otherwise go without. All donations are welcome and I am always very grateful, as I know how much the charity relies on us to keep up their supplies.

Beating the Bounds

In the last edition we published an old newspaper clipping from 1967, when the boundaries of the parish were walked, led by Mr A. Henderson and the Reverend Spurling. We asked who was the little girl being bumped on the boundary stone and Diane Johnson has submitted the following:



"My daughter Margaret was 7 years old when the picture was taken. She was bumped on the boundary stone because she was the youngest walker. Margaret later became a State Registered Nurse and worked as a Community Nurse. She is married and now lives with her husband and three children in Hawkhurst Kent.

There was another Beating of the Bounds between '67 and 2000, but I cannot remember when, probably the early '70's. It was famous for the fact that Mary Wickham's husband, Geoff, fell in the dyke.

The bounds were last beaten for the Millennium celebrations. My other daughter Linda, who was 10 in 1967 walked in 2000 with her son who was then 8 years old.

Other members of the Parish Council and I worked in the Pack House at Hellands Farm preparing hot soup and baked potatoes for the walkers lunch when they were about half way."

The Village Society would like to host another Beating the Bounds, and originally we hoped to do it before the end of this year, partly to mark the centenary of the 1908 walk, but with the recent very wet weather it is impractical at the moment and so we will wait until early next year, when we hope some drier weather will make the ground less treacherous to walk on.

We would very much like to continue this tradition



Margaret Johnson and family now

and aim to make it a social occasion with a break for lunch at the half way point.

Preston Steam Rally

We had a really successful weekend in June when we held the Steam Rally. We were lucky enough to have wonderful weather for the event this time - not a drop of rain in sight! this made all the difference so it was very well attended. Moving the car park to Deerson Lane proved a success and alleviated the traffic and pedestrian problems in Court Lane.

Dates for 2009 will be 27th and 28th June when we hope to give the rally a country fair feel and also to persuade more businesses in East Kent, however small or large to get involved one way or another. Thank you to all Preston and Elmstone residents for your support.

We will be holding our annual Christmas opening of The Steam Museum at Preston Court on the weekend of 28th and 29th December when the large stationary engines will be in steam in the Oast House also some of the traction engines and organs and we hope to run a miniature train on a short length of railway line. These two weekends are only possible with the involvement of a gang of loyal volunteers from Kew Bridge Steam Museum in London.

Everyone is welcome at Christmas and entry is free but please walk down Court Lane as parking is limited in the winter months.

Lorna and Michael List Brain

Elmstone Christmas Pudding

8 oz suet
4 oz self raising flour
8 oz bread crumbs
1 tea spoon mixed spice
½ tea spoon nutmeg
½ tea spoon cinnamon
1 pound brown sugar
8 oz sultanas
8 oz raisins
1-1/4 pounds currants
2 oz mixed peel
2 oz almonds rough chopped
2 oz glace cherries, halved
1 medium apple, peeled and finely chopped
grated rind of one orange and one lemon
5 fluid oz of stout
5 fluid oz of dark rum
2 two pint pudding bowls with snap on lids.

Soak the fruit, nuts, orange and lemon rind in a bowl with the rum for 24 hrs occasionally stirring to coat and re-hydrate.

In a mixing bowl, place the suet, bread crumbs, flour, spices, and sugar. Mix them up thoroughly. Gradually add the pre-soaked fruit and nut mix and the chopped apple.

Beat the eggs and the stout together. Add to the ingredients above and mix thoroughly.

Divide into two, two pint pudding bowls. Place a grease proof paper disc over pudding mix. Then snap on basin lids securely.

Steam the puddings for eight hours, ensuring that the water does not boil dry.

When cooked and cooled, cover with a decorative square of muslin and tie corners together

RE-HEATING INSTRUCTIONS

Re-heat by steaming for two hours or 7 to 10 mins in microwave depending on power. See microwave instructions.

Daisy Williamson



Preston and Elmstone's website and future plans

Did you know that your village has its own website? It seems that not everybody does. You can find it at www.prestonparishplan.co.uk. It was first created in early 2005 specifically to help in the process of gathering and disseminating information towards publishing the Preston Parish Plan, which was completed in 2006. That's why some of the information you see at the moment is historical. Last year the site was adapted a little to help carry out a similar role for the production of the Village Design Statement, which all of you will by now have received in print.

The website also has a Village Directory section which reproduces the details of the Directory sent out last year, in case you have mislaid your copy. We haven't updated it since it was printed, but are planning to do this next year. Meanwhile if you find that any of the numbers are incorrect or have information about new important contacts, please do let us know. The 'Contacting us' button gives email and telephone details.

Going forward we have plans to completely redesign the website to reflect the changing role that it will play with the establishment of the Village Society. We will be making the VDS available on the website as a reference material, before turning our efforts to the online needs of a Village society. Have you got any ideas for what you would like to see there? All constructive suggestions are welcome for consideration, and from all ages – young and old. Would you like it to be more interactive, so that the village can use it as a way getting feedback – for example about planning village events? Would you like to contribute to the content? Is there local information you would like to have always available on line, perhaps as an addition to the Village directory?

Of course not everybody has access to the Internet and back in 2005 that was the case for the majority of households, which is why the site was never the main method of communication. However, we know from discussions with many parishioners and Vfast that the majority of households now do have access, even though for some it is still only dial-up access via a slow connection. So it seems like the right time to start offering more services online. And there is good news if you had been considering getting broadband access with Vfast but decided that the £299 installation charge was too high.

In August they reduced the charge to a more manageable £99 plus VAT and increased the download speeds. For full information go to www.vfast.co.uk/news/

For this month the main news is that an online version of this Newsletter is available on the web-site. This is in response to a number of requests from parishioners with family members living abroad who are keen to read about what is going on at home. We hope they enjoy it and perhaps they will send in some reminiscences about the village from their corner of the world.

Louise Perryman, Secretary, Village Society.
Please email any comments to Committee@prestonparishplan.co.uk

Computer training

A number of you took advantage of the free day's taster training offered in the village hall earlier this year. If you would like to take this to the next level, or if you didn't get to the training day but know you could do with a little help, regular sessions are available in Sandwich, Deal and Dover every two to three weeks. The Sandwich sessions are held in the Guildhall. Topics covered focus on use of the Internet, Email, Word Processing and Digital Photography. For further information please phone Training Highway on 01304 617174.

Anti - Social Behaviour .
Please report all incidents to the police
Telephone number: 01304 872220

Quiz Night

To be held in the Village hall on
Saturday, 15th November at 7.30 p.m.

Get together with some friends to make up a table, bring your own food and drink.
£3.50 per person

Raffle - All proceeds to the village hall

WHIST DRIVES

Continue during the winter months

On the first Wednesday of the month

At 2.15 pm

In the village hall

There will be a raffle, all proceeds to the village hall

All are welcome

Police Community Support Officer

Here is a photo of Katie Parker Brown our PCSO. She has been working in the village since the spring, so most people will know her, but if you haven't seen her, here she is!



Katie's phone number is 07969 584204 for reporting crime, other than 999 calls

Annual Coffee Morning

To be held at the Village Hall

On Saturday 29th November, 2008

Coffee, stalls with cakes, cards, books, bric a brac, small gifts etc.

Entrance 50p to include a cup of coffee

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