



Parish Council Newsletter February 2014

Chairman's Report

I am very happy to inform you of the substantial progress made by the Parish Council to improve the Dog Walk area around the Recreation field.

The temporary boundary fencing is now complete and new signs are now in place.

We are pleased to say that the fenced off areas appear to be working very well and the problem of dog fouling on the park is becoming better.

I am also very happy to inform you that the proposals to implement a footpath/cycleway to enable the bypass of the Station Road Bridge are underway and we are hoping to make good progress with this in the New Year.

Meeting Walk has been given a tidy up and this area is now looking good. We will also be carrying out some tree and hedge work along St Marys Road to further improve this area of the Village.

The Council are happy for any residents to suggest further improvements within the Village to help make this a tidy and happy community for all.

There will be an organised litter pick taking place within the Village on the 29th March between 9am – 11am and if you are interested in taking part then please meet at the Village Hall at 8.50am for equipment issue and a briefing. Please wear suitable clothing and sturdy shoes.

On behalf of the Council I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and I am looking forward to the new challenges that 2014 will bring to the village of Bluntisham.

*Tim Ellis
Chairman*

Councillor Vacancy

Bluntisham Parish Council are seeking new Councillors to help us to carry on our good work within the Village.

We have many new projects that we are embarking on in the New Year and if you would like to see positive changes and improved facilities within your village then please come and join us.

Together we can make a definite difference to our community.

If you are interested in becoming involved then please feel free to attend a couple of meetings which are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall to see how we work. We would then ask you to send in a letter together with a CV so that we can set up an informal meeting with the Councillors.

Contact details can be found at the foot of the page.

Barograph Update

The Parish Council is actively pursuing this proposal to improve the area surrounding the Barograph within the village and we have put in a bid to the Local Highways Improvement Initiative Scheme to see if we can get help with funding this idea from the County Council.

The proposal is to kerb around the site and create a traffic island. This would then be paved over and a small scale planting scheme implemented to soften the island. The new kerb would follow very roughly the solid white line that currently exists with radius corners to suit. The existing access road adjacent to the hairdressers would remain.

Before any decision is taken we would welcome your views on this proposal. Please contact any of the Parish Councillors with your views. Contact details can be found on Page 3.

Highway Warden

The Parish Highway Warden continues to walk round the village every three months with the Highways Supervisor responsible for this village. Areas of concern are noted and repairs follow in due course. Urgent repairs to potholes & unsafe areas take precedence.

Please raise areas of concern with Mrs Margaret Lumb in case they have been overlooked or have happened between walks. Highways asks that residents keep hedges and overhanging tree branches cut back and gravel swept back on to drives and not left on the footpath or roadway as it can cause broken headlights and shattered windscreens.

Please do not block footpaths with bins or vehicles. Pedestrians, scooter/wheelchair users and pushchairs must be able to pass along without recourse to going on to the highway to do so.

Kevin Anthony Hair
(located in the newly refurbished Benetton's salon)

Is now open for business

For more information visit
<http://www.kevinanthonyhair.co.uk>



Your Parish Council needs you!

If you are interested in becoming a councillor and would like to be involved in helping to shape the future of your village, please contact Mandy Pink on 01487 843983 for details.

Bluntisham and Colne 2014

Nutty Tarts Thursday 6 March

Wildlife Trust – Thursday 4 April

Resolutions and Members Night
Thursday 1 May

Outing – Thursday 5 June

Feel free to come along as a non member and pay only £3.50 on the night.

For this you get to listen to interesting speakers, a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cakes, and a raffle ticket.

Be warned though, you may enjoy yourself!

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Colne Village Hall at 7.30pm unless advised otherwise.

For more details contact;

Maggie 01487 741514
Joy 01487 841371

Cambridgeshire County Council needs you to help change the lives of local children and young people.

Foster Carers provide a stable family support network for local children and young people when they are unable to live with their own family. Every year we have over 425 children and young people looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The shortage of Foster Carers means that children and young people are placed with (independent foster carers or residential units some outside of Cambridgeshire) they may also be looked after within the county children's homes. We need to recruit more Foster Carers in order to give them the best possible future. Foster Carer's come from all different kinds of backgrounds. It may be that

you have your own children or you may have worked with children before. You may have no experience of children or possibly considering a career change?

Every child is different so we need different Foster Carers, if you can offer stability, security and the positive experience of a loving family then we want to hear from you.

You might be:

- Married, in a civil partnership, single or living with a partner
- From an ethnic background
- In a same sex relationship
- In work, unemployed or retired

Recruiting local people will mean that children and young people can live in their own community, continue to attend the same school and maintain contact with their family and friends.

We offer generous allowances including a startup package, 24 hr support and full training.

Call our freephone number on **0800 0520078** or email **fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**



As well as beautiful countryside, scenic coast lines and thriving towns, the people of East Anglia have something else to be grateful for! The East Anglian Air Ambulance is delighted to announce that it is now operating a full night-time Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS). The HEMS team will cover all six counties covered by the East of England Ambulance Service between the hours of 5pm to 1am.

Achieving night flying approval couldn't be more timely. As the evenings draw in, and many of us are travelling to and from work in the dark, it is reassuring to know that should the unthinkable happen, the East Anglian Air Ambulance will be there to help.

This is new ground for the Civil Aviation Authority, the UK aviation regulator, as well as for the EAAA. To finally get approval for night-time missions took almost a year. It was then necessary for our pilots, paramedics and doctors to receive extensive training.

The aircraft had to be modified to accommodate working with night vision goggles (NVG). Lighting in the cockpit was changed and additional room was required to accommodate the pilot's NVG. It was also essential to install a more sophisticated

navigation system; as well as a Power line Detection System, a Trakka searchlight for the undercarriage, and put fluorescent markings on all equipment!

And when all these modifications had been approved the actual flight testing begins! A very long and challenging process, but incredibly rewarding if it means we can help more people in East Anglia.

The EAAA is a 365-day helicopter emergency medical service which covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. With a medical crew highly trained in critical care, we bring the emergency room to the patient within 25 minutes and can then transport them to the most appropriate hospital if needed. Since our launch in 2000, we have attended over 12,500 life-saving missions.

For more information about the East Anglian Air Ambulance or to find out how you can support our work, please visit our website www.eaaa.org.uk

Magpas also work within our area and they can be contacted on 01480 371060



Magpas have attended over 70 incidents in the Huntingdonshire area over the last year and their professional and expert team have helped many victims of accidents in this period. Thankfully, with their quick response times and Helimedix facilities they have made a very valued contribution to the lives of Bluntisham residents. As with all charities of this nature donations are always welcome. Please refer to the website for more details. www.magpas.org.uk.

The Community First Responder Team have now purchased a defibrillator and will be organising some training sessions on its use soon. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk.



Bluntisham Branch

New Courses for the Spring Terms will be announced shortly

For further information or to register for a course, please contact Jan Eaton on 01487 843959

Your Parish Councillors and their responsibilities

Tim Ellis	843913
<i>Chair, Finance, Village Hall</i>	
Elinor McNeill	840307
<i>Vice Chair, Finance, Allotments, Footpaths</i>	
Gary James	841895
<i>Village Hall</i>	
Kathy Searle	842293
<i>Village Hall, Planning</i>	
Margaret Lumb	841687
<i>Road Safety, Crime & Police issues, Parish Highway Warden</i>	
Frank Hudson	741290
<i>Allotments, Footpaths</i>	
Joan Gutteridge	740210
<i>Finance, Village Hall, Planning</i>	
Mandy Pink	843983
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	

Please feel free to contact your councillors should you have any questions or concerns about the village. If you prefer to email please send to the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@bluntisham.com

The Bluntisham Village Hall can be hired for any event that you may be considering within the village and details can be obtained from the Clerk

Earith, Bluntisham & Colne Royal British Legion

The local branch of the British Legion is looking for new members. If you have served in HM Forces or are still serving please join us. We would also like to start a Youth and Ladies Section within the Branch. You do not need to be ex.forces to join and everyone is welcome.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about what we do, please contact the Chairman, John Morgan, on 01487 741361 or email

john.103morgan@btinternet.com



Allotment Update

There is to be a new dip tank installed at the allotment area in the New Year together with a fresh water tap to further enhance the current facilities that are already provided by the Council. We would also like to remind you that there should not be any hose pipes or carpets on this site.

Elinor

Police Matters

As the nights become darker and colder the increase in dwelling burglaries and car thefts can be noted.

Special care needs to be taken at winter time to safe guard your homes and vehicles.

If you have been given valuable items at Christmas then make sure that you are using security marking by adding your postcode onto these items to deter thefts.

Make sure that you do not leave your keys in your door or lying around in full view. Never leave your keys displayed on a hook by your door.

When you go out at night try and leave a radio and some lights on so that it looks as if your home is occupied. Noise and light are both good crime deterrents.

Take care with your belongings when you go out for the evening. Do not hang your bag over the back of a chair and never leave your wallet, purse or phone on a table unattended. Drink responsibly while you are out and never accept a drink from a stranger. Try to always stay in your group and always make sure you know how you will be getting home at the end of the evening. Have taxi numbers to hand or better still go out with a designated driver.

Bluntisham is a very safe place to live. But it is very important that you report any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood by calling the non emergency number of 101. If you do see a crime being committed then phone 999 and note down as many details as you can.

Neighbourhood Watch

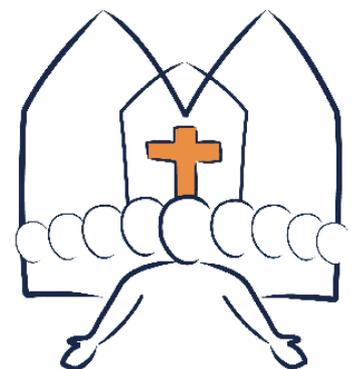
Neighbourhood Watch remains active in the village. Bluntisham is a low crime village & we want to keep it that way. If you are not a member and would like to join, know the name of the co-ordinator for your area or even become a co-ordinator, please contact Ian Montgomery, Chairman, on 01487 842161 or Margaret Lumb (Secretary) on 01487 841687. Non-urgent matters can be reported by telephoning 101 Always ask for an incident number. Alternatively use email on stives.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

Street Lighting

Bluntisham has now benefitted from the new street lights that the County Council have provided under the street lighting initiative plan that is now fully underway in most of the surrounding villages in our area.

The quality and spread of light has improved village safety and will help to ensure that Bluntisham remains a safe and healthy environment in which to live.

Bluntisham Baptist Church



The Revd Tim Williamson is to be the new minister at the Baptist Church and his first service will be held on Saturday February 8th 2014 at 2.30pm. For details of other services please email

Miriam.webb@bluntishambaptist.org

Tel 01487 843538

Bluntisham Baptist Church, High Street, Bluntisham, Cambs, PE28 3LD



**Launch of HACT
(Huntingdon Association for Community Transport)**

HACT will be taking over the provision of the Ring and Ride service in the Huntingdonshire area from the former service, Nene & Ouse Community Transport. This change will take place from April 2013.

All new members wanting to join the service should please call our office telephone number on 01480 411114 or send in a cheque for £15 made payable to HACT and sent to our office address at 5 Martin Avenue, March, Cambs PE15 0AY.

We are extremely pleased to be taking over this service and hope that residents in the Huntingdonshire area will join HACT and reap the benefits of this new transport service.

Our website will be launched soon, www.hact-cambs.co.uk, where you will be able to find details of all trips and services available to HACT members.



**BLUNTISHAM NOW HAS
ITS OWN STUDIO GYM!
Forefront Fitness at The Vibe Studio
(above Budgens)**

**We are now open for viewing and
for FREE induction sessions.**

**Contact us now to book your
appointment**

Tel: 01487 841415

Email: info@forefrontfitness.co.uk



Village Issues

The Parish Council would like to make all parishioners aware of some issues that have been raised by concerned residents within Bluntisham.

Parking within some areas of the Village is causing problems especially in smaller residential cul-de-sacs. Please be considerate to other road and pathway users when parking your vehicle and ensure that you adhere to the correct regulations for parking as stipulated in the High Way Code.

There have also been some issues raised concerning horse and dog fouling within the village. If you are a horse owner please try and ensure that you take care when riding with your horse and that if your horse should foul within a residential area of the village you try and make some effort to clear the horse manure if this is possible.

Dog owners should also ensure that they clear away any mess that their animal leaves behind. If you walk your dog on the recreation field you should only use the area that is now marked for dog walking. The Huntingdonshire District Dog Warden will be patrolling the area shortly.

Open Forum Police Surgery

There is to be an Open Forum Police Surgery on Thursday the 6th March 2014 at the Bluntisham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Bluntisham.

Commencing at 7.30pm.

All welcome

Please come along and meet your local Police Team and let them know of any issues that you are concerned about within the Parish.

The Bluntisham Fryer is now under new Management. Erica and Nick, from The Lounge are happy to introduce their head fryer, Mr Paul Bryan, who has 30 years of frying experience.

They would like to extend a warm welcome to you all.

Come along and try it for yourself. Make Friday night and indeed any night of the week a fish night.