

PITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 38 – SPRING 2016

Chairman's Notes

Our last Newsletter contained a piece by Duncan Meikle, Chair of the New Pavilion and Community Hall Committee of the Pitminster & Angersleigh Playing Field Association. He mentioned that they had applied for a small grant to finance the printing, distribution, collection and analysis of a questionnaire to be issued to all the residents of the parish. Well, the grant was obtained and the questionnaire has been prepared, distributed and collected. Thanks to all those involved in that and thanks to each one of you who took the time and trouble to complete it. Your responses are now being analysed by Community Council for Somerset, and with their help a bid for funding is now being prepared for submission to The Big Lottery. We all look forward to being kept informed of progress.

Meanwhile, the work of the Parish Council continues. Since the date of the last Newsletter the Council has met seven times. It has considered thirteen planning applications, nine for observation and four for decision. It has also reported to Taunton Deane Borough Council a number of instances of possible breach of planning control of which it has been made aware. The work of cleaning the War Memorial has been completed, as has the repainting of the Telephone Boxes, very much to the satisfaction of all. The application for a grant to fund the purchase of a defibrillator has been successful, so await further news of the

installation of that potentially life saving piece of equipment at the Sellicks Green Playing Field. Concerns expressed by parishioners about increased Heavy Goods Traffic and speeding in the parish have been reported to County Highways. A request to impose a speed limit on that part of Howleigh Lane outside The Deane Discovery Centre has been declined on the grounds that the appropriate criteria are not met.

There will be a **Parish Litter**

Pick on Saturday 9th April. If you would like to take part in this, and we do need lots of volunteers, then please meet up **at Sellicks Green at 10am.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Thursday 19th May at The Old School Pitminster, starting at 7pm.**

This is intended to be a meeting of the electorate of the parish, and this year we thought that we would make it a bit more interesting by inviting representatives of different aspects of parish life to report on what their organisations have been doing. There may even be a cup of tea and a biscuit available, if that tempts you.

One sad piece of news that will be announced at that meeting is that Councillor Sarah Wakefield is retiring from the Parish Council after sixteen years, many of them as Chair. Her knowledge, wisdom and real care for the people of Pitminster parish will be greatly missed.

This does mean that a vacancy on the Council will arise which we would hope to fill by co-opting a Councillor for the three

years until the next election. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the Council.

Lastly I am asked to say that this is the last issue of the Newsletter that will be distributed in hard copy form to all residents of the parish. In the future the Newsletter will be posted on the Council's website. However, if you wish to continue to receive a hard copy then please let me know.

Richard Morgan

Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday

This is being celebrated with a lunchtime street party outside the Queens Arms, appropriately, on Saturday **28th May**. It will be a Bring and Share affair, and is for the whole parish, not just Pitminster Villagers. If you would like to attend would you telephone Trudi Morgan on 421572 or email her at trudi.morgan1@btinternet.com so that the appropriate numbers of tables and chairs can be organised and steps can be taken to ensure that not everybody brings fish paste sandwiches, for example. A small levy of £2 per person will be raised to pay for Insurance. Customarily on these occasions we purchase drinks from the pub rather than bringing our own, to reward them for allowing us to use their premises for laying out the buffet, or indeed for taking shelter in the event of inclement weather.

Women's Institute

The Blagdon Hill and District WI now meet at The Angersleigh

Village Room on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm. For details contact Peta Trott on 421640

Blackdown Youth Club

presently meets fortnightly at Corfe Village Hall. For details contact Emma King on 07980 566551

Dates for your Diary

Parish Litter Pick Saturday 9th April

Pitminster Street Party Saturday 28th May

Blagdon Hill Open Gardens Sunday & Monday 29th & 30th May

Barn Dance Saturday 4th June
Pitminster and Angersleigh Playing Field Association Fête Saturday 11th June

Village Pageant "A Call to Arms"

Plans are well advanced to present a Village Pageant over the weekend of 24th, 25th and 26th June.

The Pageant will recreate episodes from Pitminster life during the years 1625 to 1689, a period of 64 years which just happens to reflect the 64 years for which Her Majesty The Queen has reigned over us. The production will include scenes of the Trott family from Pitminster deciding to leave these shores for America, of the English Civil War and of Monmouth's Rebellion, all of which events affected our villages to a greater or lesser extent.

One of the longest lasting effects may be that Richard Trott's descendants, now named Treat, in America, have retained their

connection with Pitminster, and in particular with Pitminster Church and have been very generous in their financial support of the church. We hope that a good number of them will be joining us for the weekend, which as well as the performance of the Pageant, will include Cream Teas, a meal in the Queens Arms, a special church service, the Corfe v Pitminster cricket match and a barbecue. The events will also help with much needed fund-raising in support of providing a refectory with kitchen facilities in the Church together with the addition of a toilet, thus dragging the building from the 17th to the 21st century

We have a working party who are in the process of scripting the production, corralling a director, and putting out the call for actors, publicists, and wardrobe and lighting assistants.

If you would like to get involved with this project in any way or if you are interested in finding out more about the events or have information about our local history during 1637 – 1691 then please contact Harry Yoxall on 421396 or Nicky Yoxall at nicolaprice@doctors.org.uk. Or you can pop in and have a chat with the working group at the 'Call to Arms' event at the Queens Arms on Wed 23rd March 6-9pm

Here are details of your Parish Councillors. Please feel free to contact them.

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