

Down to Business.....

Precept 2011/2012

Parish Councils have been asked to maintain precepts at 2010 levels and Little Melton Parish Council has complied by keeping the precept unchanged for 2011. Because some items will increase in cost during 2011, the Parish Council has had to reduce the budget for maintenance of the Village Hall in order to balance the budget. Replacement of the remaining single glazed windows with more energy efficient units may have to be delayed by a year unless external funds can be found. Full precept details are in the Parish Council Duties section of the website.

Snow and Ice

At the time of writing there have been several weeks of icy conditions and it looks as if this winter may be colder than most. The Parish Council has secured an additional grit bin and it has been sited at the junction of Braymeadow Lane and School Lane.

Please take note that there are no funds to pay for regular clearance of ice from the Village Hall car park and care must be taken in icy weather. People are of course welcome to take grit out for use on the paths outside their properties but NOT for use on their own drives and paths.

Travellers on School Lane in Colney

Norfolk County Council evicted the travellers at the end of November as the travellers had not adhered to the conditions of their toleration. Norfolk County Council will be clearing the road in order to make it passable by walkers and cyclists.

The Parish Council has asked the Highway Rangers to clear the mud and vegetation from the path at the end of School Lane in Little Melton (by the A47).

LITTER PICK

It's that time of the year again!

The Spring Litter Pick will start from the Village Hall at 11 am on Saturday 27th March. Why not come along and help and don't forget to wear some stout shoes or boots. We usually end up in the Village Inn for a quick drink when we've finished. Please come and help.

For the Diary....

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9th Jan | Wildlife Group
Whitlingham Park
Visit 9.30 am |
| 11th Jan | Parish Council Meeting
7.30 pm
Village Hall |
| 13th Jan | County Council Election |
| 17th Jan | Wildlife Group Talk |
| 24th Jan | Toadwatch Group
Meeting 8.00 pm
Village Inn |
| 27th Jan | Meltonians AGM
2.15pm Village Hall |
| 29th Jan | Friends of Little Melton
Church Quiz 7.30 pm
Village Hall |
| 1st Feb | Oil Economy Group last
ordering day. |
| 15th Feb | Parish Council Meeting
7.30 pm
Village Hall |
| 24th Feb | Meltonians
'Work of Salvation Army'
2.15pm Village Hall |
| 3rd Mar | Primary School World
Book Day |
| 15th Mar | Annual Parish Meeting
7.30 pm
Village Hall |
| 24th Mar | Meltonians
'Deserts Canyons &
Caves'
2.15pm Village Hall |
| 27th Mar | Litter Pick
11 am Village Hall |
| Apr 2011 | Next Newsletter |

Parish Council contacts:

Clerk: Richard Sinclair 01603 811432 - clerk@littlemelton.org.uk

Chair: John Heaser 01603 812472 - chair@little-melton.org.uk

Little Melton



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue no.15

January 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



care about the village are prepared to give their time to help with the running of village affairs.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Council, either as a councillor or in another role, then please get in touch with the Chair or Clerk (contact details on back page) - or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on March 15th, 19:30 at the Village Hall. The meeting will be informal and similar to last year, there will be brief reports from village organizations and opportunities for anyone to raise matters of concern.

**Don't forget, there's more information, updated regularly on
www.little-melton.org.uk**

***5th May 2011 is the
election date for Parish
Councils and your
village needs you.***

Nominations must be submitted by 5th April. Several long serving members will not be standing for re election so some new faces are needed! During the next four years there will be opportunities to influence the large developments proposed for this area. There will also be a transfer of some responsibilities from County to Parish level. So it is important that people who

You may have noticed weekend activity on the football pitch but may not realise that the team in orange and black is **Hethersett Athletic Football Club**. The club runs 16 teams aged from 6 to adult; with 17 registered players living in Little Melton. This season it's the U13s and U16s regularly hosting home matches in the village. We'd welcome your support, and if you're interested in finding out more about HAFC, visit www.hethersettathletic.co.uk or call Sue on 07733 190728.

Home Watch

Have you signed up for Police Direct Messages to your computer, here is how; Log on to www.norfolk.police.uk click on the **Home Watch** icon, under Essential Links on the left hand side then "**Sign Up for Messages**" then "**Register here to receive messages from Police Direct**" and under **NEW USERS** Click on **I wish to receive Police Direct messages** and follow the prompts.

Little Melton Church

We regret that due to circumstances beyond our control, the Salvation Army Band Concert could not take place over Christmas. The good news is that they promise to come in December 2011.

The Vicar, Church Wardens, PCC et al were all delighted to see so many people over Christmas. The alternative Christmas trees were a great success and if you missed them or would like to see them again, they will be on display in Hethersett Library throughout January (Thanks to Jennie and the staff for inviting us.)

We are still fundraising for the Church Roof - work in progress. On Saturday 29th January there will be a Quiz Evening at the Village Hall starting promptly at 7.30pm; teams of up to 8 people; admission £6.00 and £1.00 for accompanied children. This includes Bread and Cheese etc. But please bring your own drinks and glasses. Booking is NOT required.

Work on the roof may seem intermittent, this is due to the habits of a small number of Bats, protected by law, which have to be respected.

We thank the Parochial Charity, the Community Trust and individuals for donations to the Roofing Fund. It's not too late - donations are still very welcome.

Meltonians

We intend to dispel 2010, the year of economic gloom and present winter blues with a sizzling program for 2011. Our AGM and Two-minute memories of Childhood is the first event on 27th January. Followed on the 24th Feb by "Work of Salvation Army at Citadel & Soup Kitchens" by Hazel Sommerville and on the 24th March by "Deserts, Canyons & Caves (USA)" by Max Smith of New Costessey. May God bless you all with his love, joy and peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year. *Harold Kerslake*

Bus Timetable Changes

Since the end of November last year there has been some changes to the bus service in our village.

The No 9 Bus leaving the Crossroads at 12.31 each weekday to Norwich and the 11.00 and 13.00 buses leaving Norwich for our village have been withdrawn. All the other services have remained unchanged.

Oil Economy Group

Now that the cold weather is upon us, why not join the group and save yourselves some money. On average you save approximately £30 for 500 litres. Next ordering date is Tuesday 1st February 2011.

John Copson - 810142
John Sanders - 810720

PARISH news

Primary School update

The topic this spring term is 'Eco Issues'. We would like to hear from local people in the community who are passionate about this subject and to share this with the children. In particular, we will be looking at Caring for the environment, the effect man has on the environment, how we can save energy, and we will be working outside on our allotments.

We are celebrating World Book Day on March 3rd, similarly, if you would like to come and read to or with the children, do please contact us to arrange a time.

You are all invited to our Easter assembly, which will take place on Wednesday April 6th at 9.30am, there will be a cake sale and refreshments afterwards.

Little Melton Pre-School Nursery

We are very happy that the landscaping of our new garden area has been completed. The staff have been busy planning lots of outdoor activities which the children will be able to enjoy in a safe and secure area, weather permitting!

The nursery committee has been busy too planning lots of events for the families to enjoy – Zumba to burn off Christmas calories, a pampering evening, cheese and wine get together, a summer ball and lots more!

Once again the nursery is enjoying a very busy year and our registers are full for this academic year. We are currently taking enquiries and bookings for places in September 2011, please contact the nursery for more information. We are open 9.15 to 12.15 every weekday during term time.

Wildlife and Toadwatch

About 20 members attended the October fungal foray at Colney Hall. Over 40 species of fungi were seen. The next meeting will be on 9th January; wintering wildfowl at Whitlingham Park. There will be an evening talk, "My Wildlife Year in Norfolk, 2010" by Peter Kitchener on 17th January. Please see calendar for details or contact Peter on 814134 for more information. Don't forget to provide the birds with food and unfrozen water.

Toadwatch saved 900 toads, frogs and newts during the migration in 2010. We will be meeting at the Village Inn at 20:00 on Jan 24th to discuss plans for 2011 over a drink. Contact John on 812472 for more info. www.toadwatch.org

Have you heard of **Little Melton Parochial Charity**? It may be able to help you? The organisation exists to help any Little Melton resident who is in need of financial assistance. Examples of help given to parishioners in the past include help with chiropodists' fees, children's school bus fares, fuel costs, essential house repairs, medical charges. All enquiries are treated with utmost confidentiality just call Chris Doggett 812146, Jean Chamberlain 812031 or John McDonald 810321.

We are indebted to Norman Duffield who has decided to retire as Treasurer and Trustee in January after many years of dedicated service. We are grateful to Norman for his wise counsel and unfailing work in our community affairs. Prior to joining us as a Trustee Norman served on our Parish Council and is a former Chairman.