

BLOOMING WOODHALL. We have once again entered the Britain in Bloom Competition and the B in B group made a start at enhancing the street scene with planters last year. Supported by the Parish council and with a new grant from the 02 Communities Award, further improvements are planned with hanging baskets for this season and more planters. If you would like to help, the group is looking for more pairs of hands for the weekly Sunday morning maintenance/planting, which takes an hour or so. They would also welcome donations of geraniums or other colourful flowers and tub centre plants/shrubs, such as clipped bays. Finally, having been donated a water bowser, they need volunteers to form a watering rota for these displays. Thanks to all those business and individuals who have helped so far. For more information and offers of help, contact Graham Keegan on keegan@telinco.com M: 0780 1661580 T: 01526 353672.

LOW COST HOMES OPPORTUNITY. We know from our surveys and your comments that finding homes for local people at prices they can afford can be a real challenge. With house prices as they are these days, shared ownership is one way onto property ladder. Recently completed are 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments in a stylish new building on Witham Road. For more information on purchasing a shared ownership property or applying to be on the shared ownership waiting list, contact the Waterloo Housing Group, Lincolnshire Sales Team on 01507 355200 or 355232 or e-mail sales@newlinxhousingtrust.co.uk

FEEDBACK FROM COUNCIL SURGERY SESSIONS. We were pleased that some residents popped into the first surgery session to speak to our Councillors. Issues that were raised included lack of trees in certain parts of the village, planning applications, Jubilee Park, waste collections and traffic issues. We will be looking into all these issues and reporting back to the individuals that raised them. We hope to see more of you at the next session on 7th March.

POLICE CUT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR- IT'S OFFICIAL! We may have thought it, but now it's official, our local PCSO and police team have worked together to cut anti-social behaviour in Woodhall Spa significantly. Comparing April 08-Jan 09 with the year April 07-March -08 statistics show the following percentage reductions in this type of crime: a 12% cut in drunken behaviour, 20% in inconsiderate behaviour, 68% in throwing things, 13% in vehicle antisocial behaviour and a 50% decline in other types of antisocial behaviour.

POLICE CONTACT DETAILS.

PCSO Martin Clough 07825 100410 Local Police Station 01507 523332

Community Website: www.woodhallspa.org



**WOODHALL SPA PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
Issue 1 2009**

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Amarylis Midgley	353533	Neil Storey	351433
Joanna Nelstrop	354107	Gillian Baker	352997
David Clarke	354330	Audrey Pestell	354898
Patricia Franklin	353026	David Hill	353070
Daphne Robinson	354385	Elsbeth Mace	353548
Eileen Pickavance	353184	Will Saunders	353616

PARISH CLERK Amanda Bushell 352461

OFFICE 17 Stanhope Avenue, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6SP

The Parish Office opening times are: Tuesday 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 9.30am – 11.30am

NEW PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES. To make it easier for you to talk to us, the Parish Council is holding a drop in surgery at the library on the first Saturday of each month from 10-11am. Please pop in if you would like to discuss any council matter or need our help. If it's not something we can help with directly, we'll 'know a man who can'!

TAKING CARE WITH OUR MONEY. You'll be pleased to hear the Parish Council has kept its costs down and set the annual precept at the same figure as last year £39,500, this is equivalent to 36p per household per week. As before, our major single cost is the Kirkby Lane cemetery.

NEWS IN BRIEF: In a welcome development, a new **street sweeper** has started work after some time without one.. **Royal Square** is getting a facelift with some overgrown conifers removed or cut back and new shrubs set to replace tired rose beds.. If you see any **suspicious tree felling** (often on Sundays) please contact our PCSO on 07825100410 and note details of vehicles and individuals involved. Many of our trees are protected, but sadly that doesn't always stop people trying to remove them without the proper permissions.

THE MALL We are aware of the removal of the Mall's historic tree trunk porch and have been in contact with both ELDC Planning Enforcement and the current lease holder about it. The porch is especially valuable as it represents a link back to the work done by Adolphus Cane, the architect responsible for the Spa village design. Preserving our heritage was a key issue in the Parish Plan (adopted in 2005) and led to the setting up of a Heritage Committee to take forward the actions you identified. Both the Parish Council and the Heritage Committee will be working with the responsible agencies to resolve this situation and hopefully preserve this important local feature.

JUBILEE PARK -TO BE..OR NOT TO BE..? It's the question on everyone's lips. The money allocated for Jubilee Park by ELDC is still on hold pending a budget review in March. We are still pushing with the Friends of Jubilee Park for the renovation project to proceed with, as we reported before, the main focus being the replacement of the pool tank with a stainless steel liner. This will provide years of virtually maintenance-free life and offers the best value for money solution. In the meantime, the Executive of ELDC has delayed the closure of the Jubilee Park caravan site until the end of the 2009 season. For a report on the last season at Jubilee Park see the Jubilee Park pages of our website.

LIBRARY – WHERE, WHAT & WHEN.. We are working closely with the library service to secure the future of our library and hopefully add to the hours and services. Following your feedback, we have requested the re-routing of the mobile library. It's current stops are: Golf Hotel Mondays 13.00-15.00, Oakland Park 15.10-17.00 and Mill Lane Monday 23rd March & Monday 20th April 12-12.30. A reminder of the hours in the main library: Tuesday 10.00-16.00, Thursday 14.00-19.00, Friday 10.00-14.00 & Saturday 10.00-13.00. **PLEASE USE IT ALL YOU CAN – MORE PEOPLE = A STRONG CASE TO RESTORE SOME OF OUR HOURS-** Less use = bad news for its future!! Remember, we put our minutes and papers in there as well as on the website. You can also access the internet there and the librarians are an excellent source of help and information.

DITCHES, DYKES AND DRAINS – REVISITED. In the year since we met with all the agencies involved in drainage, a lot of work has been carried out in Woodhall Spa. We are about to review the progress and would like to know what issues there are outstanding, or if there are any new ones. Please contact our clerk or any councillor as soon as possible if you know of any. As before, they will not be discussed in an open meeting, so your problems, or those of your locality, will not become public property.

MORE BINS..BUT WHERE? We are currently reviewing our litter and dog bins with a view to replacing the damaged ones and adding more bins to fill the gaps. If you have any ideas and suggestions for sites for these bins, now's your chance to tell us. Contact the Parish Clerk.

TREES..AND MORE TREES. Woodhall Spa's active Tree Committee is celebrating two successful tree planting events, when around 400 trees and hedgerow plants were planted in and around Woodhall Spa. Thanks to everyone who helped or who donated money for new trees. This is the start of an ambitious programme of tree conservation, recording and replacement. For more information contact Coun Daphne Robinson.

DATES FOR THE DIARY—ANNUAL PARISH MEETING It's early notice, but the meeting will be an interesting one as there are so many important and fast moving issues to report on - from Jubilee Park to the Library Service. This year we have booked a new venue- the refurbished Coronation Hall, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th May. **IF YOU CARE – BE THERE...A 'REAL' ARTS AND CRAFTS** event featuring artists and crafts people from the area will take place at the Petwood Hotel on Sunday 15th March from 10.30am-4.30pm....**PROMOTE YOUR EVENT FREE** on our community website's 'what's on' section..follow the links to the webmaster to have your event added.

KEEP WARM THIS WINTER.. The recent cold weather has undoubtedly hit older people the hardest. Last year in the East Midlands, 1,800 people died due to cold related conditions, the majority of them people over the age of 75.

One in three pensioner households are now living in fuel poverty. That means a third of all pensioner households are spending more than 10 per cent of their income on heating alone. Help the Aged is encouraging older people to find out today if they are entitled to benefits, free insulation and a Government grant for heating improvements. Even if you have made an unsuccessful claim in the past, changing circumstances may mean you are now eligible for money and energy saving help that can make a huge difference to paying the bills and keeping warm. Help the Aged has produced a guide: 3 Steps to a Warmer Winter which is available by calling **0800 089 0800**