

# LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER



**SUMMER 2006**

# JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2006

Please note that this Newsletter, whilst preserving strictly a non-political nature, provides a forum for the views of the people of Leigh Woods and Long Ashton. The members of the Parish Council do not necessarily share those views.

Un-attributed articles however are meant in general to be for the information and entertainment of the public and are largely authoritative.

The Editorial Group reserve the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication.

Marilyn Addis

Jean Pullin

Mary Uppington

EDITORIAL GROUP

*By submitting articles for publication  
you are also giving approval that they can also be used  
on the parish council website.*

## DISTRIBUTION

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Future copy should be clearly labelled 'NEWSLETTER' and sent to

**45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol BS41 9HW.**

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the 4 months  
November - December 2006 and January - February 2007 is

**midday 1st October 2006**

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*The Front Cover Photograph is of the Dedication Service commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Long Ashton Branch of the Royal British Legion on 23rd April 2006.*

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Resident,

Our village is continuing to grow and with it comes change. New residents are arriving and we welcome them and hope to see them joining in the activities on offer.

We have, at last, been given our promised second policeman. PC Ian Lamb (the very tall one) has joined PC Trevor Byford as beat officers for the village. We are very pleased to welcome PC Lamb and hope his stay will be long and fruitful. There is also the expectation of further Police Community Support Officers to aid them in September. These appointments will, we hope, help to address the high incidents of vandalism which occur especially around the Village Hall Complex.

I attended the opening of the new Northleaze School on March 14th and we all await a final decision of the future on the old Northleaze School Building.

The Annual Parish Meeting was well attended and the 50 persons present heard about the 'Long Ashton Round' footpath, which it is expected, will be opened on the afternoon of Sunday July 9th. Look out for posters nearer the time.

I should also like to congratulate Bob Cook and his wife Gay for the friendly and professional way they carried out their duties during the last year in Bob's capacity as Chairman of North Somerset Council.

Whilst we do not suffer any problems with water shortages at the moment, hose pipe bans elsewhere remind us that we must not waste such a precious commodity. However let's hope we don't have a summer washout especially on June 24th, the day of the Village Midsummer Madness to which everyone is invited.

Ivor Scoones.  
Chairman Long Ashton Parish Council

# Parish Council News

The Council minutes are held in the Library  
and can be found on our website [www.longashtonparishcouncil.com](http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com)

A Congresbury woman has been taken to court by North Somerset Council for allowing her dog to stray and foul in a public place. Magistrates imposed a fine of £50 for the dog fouling, £75 for the dog straying and ordered her to pay £50 as a contribution to prosecution costs.



The Parish council does not currently own any allotments but would like to establish what genuine interest there is in working an allotment.

Please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council have recently established a Public Rights of Way Committee/Footpath Users Group. Currently the Group has five members who are setting about how best to operate and what to concentrate on first. Already however they have had some big wins and in particular have secured non Parish Council funds to improve a circular walk around the village. The money will be spent primarily on replacing difficult to negotiate stiles with self closing gates as one of the main aims of the group is to improve access to more people particularly those with mobility problems.

The group is as we say in its early days and they are anxious to involve as many people as possible. If you are a keen walker and feel you can help or want to be involved in any way please let us know. Hopefully the Parish Council and the Group will have a much clearer idea of the way forward by early March.

In the meantime, if you are interested in any aspect of walking or want any advice please contact any of the following:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| The Clerk       | Marilyn Addis  |
| John Ives       | 543198 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:johnives@blueyonder.co.uk">johnives@blueyonder.co.uk</a> |
| Harry Williams  | 392690   |
| Nigel Moorcroft | 394699   |

Mrs. M. Addis, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council,  
45 Long Ashton Road, Long Ashton, Bristol BS48 9HW. Tel: 393551  
[clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

# PLANNING

Further detailed plans have been submitted, by two developers, for the construction of dwellings on the remaining part of the southern site at the former Research Station. 86 of these to be built by Westbury Homes and 50 by Laing Homes Midlands Ltd.

It is the plans produced by Laing Homes for dwellings at the eastern end of the site, parallel to Lampton Road/Fenshurst Gardens, which are considered unacceptable. Only two bungalows are shown, placed far too close to existing properties. The Parish Council and a number of local residents have objected very strongly as they feel all the properties on this eastern boundary should be single storey. They will be situated at a higher level and therefore any building greater than one storey will have a detrimental impact by overlooking the existing bungalows. In spite of producing evidence to show single storey dwellings had been planned for this area it is very frustrating to find that, so far, our comments have been completely ignored! However, pressure will be continued to try to obtain what is felt to be the best development for this area.

A good deal of interest has been shown about the future of the original Northleaze School on Long Ashton Road. Initial plans were made available at Church House, on May 23rd, for the public to view and make comments. North Somerset Council have decided the site is to be used for Affordable Housing - the main Listed Building being converted into shared ownership flats and one house with six new properties for rent erected on the remaining land to the east. Knightstone Housing Association have been selected and an official planning application should be made very shortly.

An interesting document “Statement of Community Involvement” has been produced by North Somerset. This explains “How the Council intends to involve the community in the preparation of the new Local Development Framework and in decision making on planning applications”.

The consultation draft is available from: Public Libraries • Website [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk) • The Planning Office, Somerset House, Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 1TG.

It is to be hoped that some residents can find time to look at this and make some comments.

Mary Uppington, Chairman Planning Committee.

# LONG ASHTON PARISH PLAN

## *Help shape the future*



**Next Meeting Tuesday 19th September at 7.30 pm**  
**Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre, Keedwell Hill**

### **WHAT DO YOU WANT IN LONG ASHTON IN 2010?**

Good progress has been made with the initial work on the issues already raised. We still hope to talk to a number of interest groups, if time can be found. If any group with which you are involved, would like to make your views known, please contact us.

**The next stage is preparing a questionnaire** so that we can ensure the Parish Plan represents the views of the whole village. We will need a lot of help on this: if you can spare some time either in preparing the questionnaire, delivering it or analysing the results, please do get in touch - we will be delighted to hear from you. The Plan will be a blue print for what should happen in the village over the next 5 years, so it's worth getting involved.

We hope to have an initial framework of the questionnaire ready for review at the meeting on September 19th. Everyone interested in the future of the village is welcome.

To give some feedback and more information, here is a sample of **some points that have been raised with the working groups**, particularly from the recent meeting with parents:

### **THE VILLAGE NEEDS A FOCAL POINT THAT IS LIVELY AND OPEN MORE HOURS.**

The community Centre is run by volunteers; the meeting rooms are available for hire to any group wishing to run a club and are often fully booked. A professional manager would be pro-active and remove the problem of finding committed volunteers: is this the way forward?

## **IN THE PLAYGROUND, COULD THERE BE AERIAL ROPEWAYS MADE FROM WOODLAND MATERIAL?**

These are difficult to maintain because of the moving parts and therefore expensive. Timber equipment is more liable to vandalism.

## **WHY AREN'T THERE MORE DOG BINS?**

They cost the village both to buy and to empty regularly, and they are a blot on a rural landscape. Are there enough dog bins or is it preferable if dog owners could be more responsible: "Bag it and bin it"?

## **COULD WE HAVE A NEW PLAYGROUND TOWARDS THE EASTERN END OF THE VILLAGE?**

There is an argument for having one playground as a meeting place and hub for the whole village. £69,000 was spent in upgrading the playground next to the Village Hall from 2001 to 2004, but if there were volunteers who wished to raise funds for a new playground, they could keep to a small pre-school playground if the land could be found: the questionnaire will test views across the village.

## **COULD COMMUNICATION BE BETTER?**

This Village Newsletter is the only publication that is delivered free to every household, which happens every 4 months, and relies on volunteers. The Mercury and North Somerset Life are not delivered to large parts of the village, just less than half the residents subscribe to the Parish Magazine, the North Somerset edition of the Evening Post is not available everywhere. Are more notice-boards needed? How could the Parish Council website be improved?

Sheila Hardingham on behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Group

Tel : 01275 393690 or e-mail [smh.la@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smh.la@tiscali.co.uk)

## **The Parish Plan Steering Group**

Sheila Hardingham - Chairman

Paul Brockwell - Vice-Chairman

Marilyn Addis - Treasurer

Kieran Holling

Kate Gough

David Watkins

Will Hall

David Milne

Julie Cole - Publicity

Martyn Harris - Leigh Woods

Phil Jackson

Liz Lansley

Joan Randall

Patricia Stevens

Bob Watkins



## LONG ASHTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

The 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Branch was held on St. George's Day. The weekend celebrations started with Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday on the Friday, the St. George's Dinner (and Shakespeare's Birthday Party) on the Saturday and ended with the Branch Re-dedication Service held on the Legion Garden of Remembrance on Sunday. After the Service twenty former Members of the Armed Forces were presented with their Veterans Badges by the County President, Bobby Hanscomb, OBE, at a ceremony held in the Club Lounge. This was followed by a Tea Party and a singalong of nostalgic songs.

We were delighted that eight of the Founding Members were represented by family at the Dinner.

You don't have to be ex-services to join the RBL Club.

Why not come along and see for yourself the facilities we have to offer. We have:

Snooker Room with three full size tables • Skittle Alley • Cribbage • Darts  
Friday Bingo • Live Entertainment on a Saturday night  
Meeting room for receptions or parties • Garden • Disabled facilities  
Drinks at club prices

Our next event will be World Cup Party Day on Saturday 9th July  
to which all members and their guests are invited.

We will kick-off with a BBQ from 12.30pm and during the afternoon will watch highlights of the 1966 World Cup and other nostalgic events. After a BBQ tea we will watch the 2006 World Cup on the large screen in the lounge,

Visit our website - [www.longashtonroyalbritishlegion.org.uk](http://www.longashtonroyalbritishlegion.org.uk)  
or phone Steward Pat on 01275 392036 for more information

Dave Addis Club Secretary 01275 393551

# Village News

..... *READ ALL ABOUT IT* .....

Like the newsletter but wish it was published more often? Now you don't need to wait for the next newsletter to find out what's happening locally - just log on to the Long Ashton Parish Council website at

<http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com>

at any time for the latest news and event information.

Visit this popular site for a wealth of information about the villages of Long Ashton and Leigh Woods, including planning applications, minutes of local council meetings, lists of village groups for young and old and news and reports about events here in the village and in the nearby Ashton Court estate. The website also contains lots of useful links, including one for the dedicated parish plan website and e-mail addresses for local councillors.



Whether you are new to the village or have lived here for years, the website is the ideal way to keep up-to-date with village news and events. You can also find back copies of previous newsletters and the current Village Directory. Register at the site and you can be e-mailed directly when anything new is added in any area of the site that interests you - choose from sections including - **“Youth Organisations” “Council Meeting Dates” “Parish Plan” “Newsflash”**

If you are a member of a local group and would like to publicize an event, you are welcome to contact the Parish Clerk via the website for some free publicity for your group. And if you don't have internet access at home but would like to see what's going on at the website, do remember that the village library has free internet access for everybody.

So if you want to keep in touch with all that's happening in the village, or you would like to spread the word about what you are doing, just log on at

<http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com>

# LONG ASHTON SURGERY NEWS - JUNE 2006



Anyone coming into the surgery today will find many changes. In the last 5 years we have gone from paper based notes to a paper-light system where documents are scanned into electronic health records and pathology results arrive via a secure link direct from the laboratories. Our receptionists now have to be very adaptable, able to take on new tasks when required and still help our patients through the system with patience and tact.

Thank you to all patients who completed the patient survey in November 2005. Following discussion of the results we have implemented the following changes:

- More work is now taking place away from the front desk. This means telephones are answered more promptly and patients in the waiting room cannot hear what is being said.
- We have started playing back-ground music in the waiting rooms at the suggestion of patients. This has worked well and we welcome suggestions on the choice of music.

In the winter newsletter I asked if anyone was interested in forming a patient group. I am very pleased to say that our group has met twice and the next meeting is on 27th June 2006. We are affiliated to the National Association for Patient Participation (NAPP).

***Members of Long Ashton Patient Group (LAPPG) are as follows:***

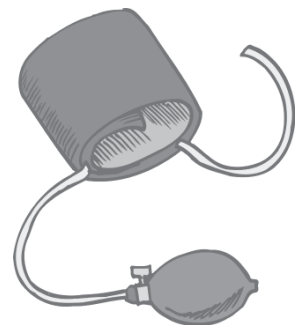
|                      |                       |        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Bill Davies          | 4 Parsonage Road      | 392521 |
| Lynda Hancock        | 5 Heath Ridge         | 543653 |
| Tony Hemsley         | 10 Kingcott Mill Farm | 464944 |
| Vikki Jervis         | 1 Lyvedon Way         | 393871 |
| Pat Preston          | 7 Rayens Cross Road   | 392825 |
| Jean Pullin          | 1 Lovelinch Gardens   | 393617 |
| John Reynolds        | 8 Chestnut Road       | 392293 |
| Flick Selway         | 11 Hillside Road      | 541296 |
| Cathy & Carl Turnell | 80 Theynes Croft      | 392571 |

The agenda is set from items suggested by members so we need to hear from you about issues that could be discussed.

At the last meetings we discussed:-

- Notice board in surgery for LAPPG - we will section off part of the main board and use for information and minutes of meetings.
- Examination couch for disabled patients - there is an adjustable couch in the treatment room which can be used by the Doctors if booked in advance.
- Well Person Clinics - these are no longer held but patients can book an appointment with the nurse for an annual check up to discuss health issues.
- Travel Clinic -clearer information was requested. The practice will review procedures and produce up to date information for patients. This service is provided in addition to basic NHS services and the surgery have a list of alternative providers if there are no appointments available.
- Practice Leaflet - this is revised quarterly, the revision date will be printed on the back cover.
- Non-Attendees - The group felt that people needed to be aware of the impact on non-attendance for appointments. Figures of patients seen and appointments missed should be publicised monthly.
- Surgery Web Site - this is under construction.  
The address is  
[www.longashton.nhs.uk](http://www.longashton.nhs.uk)

Eileen Butterworth - Practice Manager



# **LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL STATEMENT 2005/2006**

## **Planning Committee Report**

Every year deliberations about Planning Applications are having to take up more and more time. The number continues to steadily increase and many applications are now quite involved and a good deal of time is needed to become familiar with all the details.

Just about 50%, of the 108 applications we considered during the last year, have been for extensions or alterations to existing properties and this is understandable as the expense of moving to another property is often prohibitive when families wish to remain in the village.

Work at the former Research Station site is continuing. Detailed plans for the southern site have been submitted by 3 different developers - Flower & Hayes for construction of offices; Westbury Homes for the erection of 86 dwellings and Laings for the siting of 50 residential dwellings on the eastern area of this southern site.

On the Research Station site we have been very annoyed about extra breaches which have been made in the stone wall on the south side of Weston Road. Residents were good enough to alert us, as soon as it happened, so we were able to contact North Somerset immediately. This is being investigated by the Enforcement Officer and we await a decision.

A large application, which proved controversial, was that for Bracken Hill in North Road, Leigh Woods. Last year, I explained that Sunrise Senior Living had purchased the site from Bristol University. They eventually made an application for an elderly persons home and conversion of the existing buildings.

The erection of such a large new property created a good deal of opposition, particularly from the Leigh Woods Society, although refurbishment of the existing building was favourably received. The application was finally refused by North Somerset so we await further action for this site.

Permission was finally confirmed for 20 properties to be built at 2 - 12 Long Ashton Road although, to date, no work has actually started on the site.

Just last month the Committee was taken aback to receive an application to demolish 14 Long Ashton Road and replace it with 13 flats! Once again, we felt this would be a most unacceptable development in this Conservation Area and put forward all possible reasons against demolition of such a unique building being replaced by flats!!

As you know we are only able to make recommendations on plans. We arrange for a visit to be made to each site before we discuss and give our opinion but it is North Somerset Planning Officers and District Councillors who make the final decisions. Recently there have been more differences of opinion than usual, with North Somerset, but we usually receive an explanation for any differences.

It is not always easy to track down the specific officer dealing with an application because North Somerset Planning Department seems to not only have a fair turn-over of staff but also has many who are only part-time workers!

Trees and hedges, in the village, produce great growth each year so action needs to be taken by homeowners or North Somerset to ensure pavements and footpaths are not obstructed by overgrown foliage and branches. North Somerset send to the clerk details of work to be done on trees when residents have made a specific request and we are able to comment if it is appropriate.

We have continued to comment on documents dealing with local, national and regional matters.

Plans for the future of the area have been progressing. Last June a Public Inquiry was held to hear objections made about North Somerset Local Replacement Plan and the Inspector's Final Report has arrived this last week!! But - by far the most important is the "Vision of the West of England in 2026"!!

The local press have kept the public pretty well informed about the horrendous suggestions made by the SW Regional Assembly. 7,500 dwellings within North Somerset and 1,500 within Bristol City, in the vicinity of Ashton Vale.

We have put forward strong objections to these unreasonable numbers which are well above what our countryside should be asked to accept. A public consultation on the final submission is due to take place in June - do please write and object to this horrendous housing increase, with possible loss of Green Belt Land, no additional jobs or services being provided.

Our District Councillors, Bob Cook and Howard Roberts, who are also Parish Councillors, have continued to give a great deal of support and help - especially with planning matters at District level where they keep in contact with the Planning Officers and are members of the Central Area Planning Committee. Our third District Councillor Carl Francis- Pester, covers the Leigh Woods area of the Parsih and is a member of the North Area Planning Committee. I do thank all 3 of them for the time and help they have given to Planning matters.

Mary Uppington, Chairman Planning Committee

## **HIGHWAYS AND BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT**

Let me start with the **Churchyard and Burial Ground**.

We recognised during last year that the Churchyard wall was in need of repair. We have now agreed a local contractor to undertake this repair work and I'm pleased to report this work will be completed by the end of June. We will continue to aim to keep the churchyard neat and tidy.

Turning to **Footpaths**.

We are looking more and more to ensure our footpaths are maintained and accessible for all ages and for both the abled and those less abled. There has been an upsurge in interest in using footpaths. We have consequently now established a Footpath Users Group under the Chairmanship of Nigel Moorcroft.

Turning to **Highways**

Speed continues to be a concern, in particular along Long Ashton Road, Weston Road, Yanley Lane and down Providence Lane. We need to have further discussions with North Somerset over the coming year to continue to address this issue and expect to be looking at further 20 mph areas and how we use mobile speed warning signs so we can all get around the village safely.

As the new housing developments continue, much of the disturbance caused by works along Weston Road is now behind us. We still have further disturbances ahead of us as the new surface water drainage system is installed.

I also wanted to talk about the travel plan associated with the movement of the Northleaze School. We've had a number of discussions with local residents and North Somerset Council to address issues associated with cars and safety for parents taking/picking up from school. One of the most visible steps has been to refurbish the car park at the top of Theynes Croft to encourage parents to park there rather than in Brook Close. We have also been concerned about vehicles using Yanley Lane as the point for dropping/picking up. The footpath established from the school to the Yanley Lane is solely part of a walking link to Glebe Road. Signage has been put up to slow traffic down as it approaches the school from either Yanley Lane or Glebe Road.

I would like to thank village orderlies Dave Addis and John Hewer for their work around the village.

Dr. Phil Jackson  
Chairman Highways and Burial Grounds Committee

**Vice Chairman Harry Williams** reported on the successful monthly Footpath Walks, urged people to make more use of the footpaths, and asked dogwalkers to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it at home. He also gave a brief description of the new circular footpath walk around the village.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

In December 2004, a budget for the year 2005-06 was set and a precept of £94,000 was agreed by the Council.

The Committee met on 6 occasions last year and as well as financial matters, many of the statutory duties of the Parish Council were discussed. During this year, payments were made as in other years towards the upkeep of the Burial Ground, employing a Village orderly, paying a Contractor to empty the dog bins and other incidental costs.

We also paid our administration expenses and were able to award some minor grants to local organisations.

The cricket Club received £200, as did the Village Festival and we were able to donate funds to St John Ambulance and award Birdwell School £200 to help with the installation of CCTV. £3,000 was given over to youth provision.

However the main grant was to the Community Association (LACA) to help them with the running costs of the Village Hall Complex. I would like here to comment on the workings of the LACA Committee, who under difficult circumstances try to balance their books.

Their work is becoming increasingly difficult due to the behaviour of a small number of individuals. Vandalism is costing LACA over £3,000 a year, and regrettably intimidation of some of the user groups has resulted in them no longer using the facilities here. This results in a reduced room hire and is especially sad as one of these groups was raising funds for the continued improvement of this Complex.

I would therefore ask anyone who sees vandalism occurring or regrettably experiences intimidation, to report the facts firstly to the Parish Council and then to the Police.

It is not all doom and gloom, as LACA have acquired a number of new user groups.

Jonathan Skeeles, Chairman Finance Committee.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Council tries to work in the best interests of the village but this can prove difficult due to external pressures and government legislation.

Among the pleasant events of the past year are:

- The opening of the new Northleaze School.
- Being chosen joint winners of the Avonside Village of the Year competition leading to representing Avonside in the National competition.
- A new path across Birdwell Recreation Ground in preparation for the "Walking Bus" to Birdwell School.
- A new Police Officer joining the beat

Some villagers are working on a Parish Plan and new contributors would be welcome. Cllr. Sheila Hardingham would be pleased to hear from you. Leigh Woods are also preparing their part of the plan and Cllr. Martyn Harris can be contacted concerning that area.

I thank fellow members of Long Ashton Parish Council and our clerk for their hard work throughout the year and in attending meetings which average at about one a week.

Thanks also go to Cllrs. Cook and Roberts (Long Ashton) and Cllr. Francis-Pester (Leigh Woods) for the work they do on our behalf at North Somerset Council.

As you will have seen from the Committee Chairmen's reports their work is varied and we trust useful.

Ivor Scoones, Chairman Long Ashton Council

# FOOTPATH WALKS

will take place on Sundays

2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September and 1st October

Meet at C.J. Hole at 2.30 pm

Harry Williams Tel: 392690

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## Avon Wildlife Trust

The next meeting of the Avon Wildlife Trust will be held on  
**Wednesday 4th October at Northleaze School**  
when there will be

**A CHILDREN'S WILD OWL SHOW**

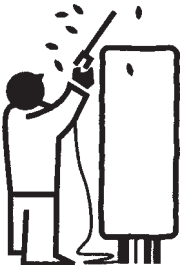
with Mr. Ian McGuire.



Joy Williams 393260

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## ***OVERGROWING HEDGES***



Will all residents please look at their hedges which abut pavements and roads and imagine two tall people walking side by side. *Can they?*

Often these hedges can cause real difficulties for pedestrians. Please cut them back.

# COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Charles Cave, Jenny Coulman and Sarah Probert as new members of our Management Committee. We thank retiring member Mark Jackson for his contribution and are pleased that he is willing to stay as a co-opted member to assist with financial advice.

We were delighted to receive a donation from the Mums and Toddler Group to purchase a baby changing unit which has now been installed. We are grateful for the support from user groups to help us improve the facilities.

Provision has now been made for disabled parking and we would ask people to respect this. We are constantly trying to improve the appearance of the Community Centre and recreation ground and would ask everyone to help by picking up litter and stopping their dogs from fouling.

Long Ashton Community Association Tel: 392102

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## MOTHERS' UNION

*Meetings are usually held at Keedwell Church  
on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.15 pm*

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| July 11th | Speaker Mr. Peter Barnes.                    |
| Sept 12th | Harvest Celebration 7.30 pm                  |
| Oct 11th  | We visit Hebron Church "Bright Hour" 2.30 pm |



**Visitors always welcome to any of our meetings.**

For more details contact Angela Chorley 392777

# GREEN WASTE



Green bags containing waste which are placed on the pavements have caused problems for pushchairs, wheelchairs and sometimes pedestrians who have often had to move dangerously onto the roadway to get past them.

North Somerset Council has agreed that bags may now be left on the **edge or in gateways of householders' properties for collection**. The collectors will not, however, walk up a pathway to pick up rubbish except for those who are infirm and have already made such arrangements with the Council.

A reminder is given that all green material must be put into **green bags only** and that any such material in black bags will not be taken by the green collectors or by the regular refuse collectors. At present North Somerset Council has run out of green bags but more will be available from 19th June.

Since we now have this green waste collection service there should be no excuse for any grass cuttings to be tipped indiscriminately - notable black spots being the footpath behind Brook Close and the bottom of the footpath leading to Theynes Estate from Cox's Shop on Long Ashton Road.

It should also limit the amount of bonfires needed but when these are necessary please ensure that care is taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours.

For those who wish to compost their own waste, bins are available from North Somerset Council for £10. To obtain a compost bin telephone 01934 888810.

Highways and Footpath Committee.

# See what top charities do with your donations - at a glance.

The British public's interest in charities is at an all time high and the impact of their donations is significant. Yet in the past it's been difficult to get a quick and easy picture of what difference charities are actually making. That's all set to change with the launch of an on-line database from the Charity Commission.

The SIR (Summary Information Return) will hold details of all the biggest charities' achievements and lets them tell their story to everyone, whether potential volunteers, donors or committed givers. The database will grow to over three and a half thousand as the deadline for charities sending their returns into the Charity Commission arrives. All charities with an income of over £1 million must now send in an annual SIR.

The Commission's chief executive, Andrew Hind said

“The SIR database helps people find out more about charities and what they actually get done. Whether you're thinking of donating, volunteering or just want to know more - SIR allows charities to tell us their story, honestly, clearly and quickly. If you want to get a better picture of what charities are doing just consult the database”.

Visit the SIR online at

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk>



## LONG ASHTON MILLENNIUM PROJECT

*Redevelopment of the Community Centre*

The LAMPRO Committee are pleased to be able to report that thanks to a £20,000 grant kindly arranged by YANSEC, and with a loan from the Parish Council, we hope to be in a position to start work on the Tennis Pavilion by the end of the summer.

This latest development at the Community Centre will be on the west side of the tennis courts, and will comprise of a meeting/club room for use by the Tennis Club, a disabled toilet/changing room, and a toilet changing room for use by members of the public whilst using the tennis facilities. The overall scheme includes a patio area for those who wish to watch tennis, or perhaps sit around and sunbathe between games.

Dave Addis LAMPRO Hon. Secretary.

### **BEST KEPT CUL-DE-SAC COMPETITIONS**



**The Parish Council has for many years run its own  
*Best Kept Road and Best Kept Cul-De-Sac*  
competitions. Judging will take place during  
the summer and results will be announced in  
the October Newsletter.**



# LONG ASHTON LIBRARY - NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

Lovelinch Gardens, Long Ashton, BS41 9AH

Tel: 01275 392358

E-mail: [longashton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:longashton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk)

***Computer Systems*** at the hundred public libraries across Somerset and the former Avon area have recently been improved to offer a better service for customers. Library members can now use all libraries from Yate to Yeovil, including those in Bristol, and borrow up to 20 items at a time (including 8 DVDs) returning then to the library of their choice. The library services of Bath and North-East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset County and South Gloucestershire now combine to provide a range of services both at libraries and 24/7 on the internet at **[www.libraries.org.uk](http://www.libraries.org.uk)**

## ***Reading Mission*** for children only! (aged 4 - 12)

Visit the library during the summer holidays and you can become a fully-fledged Reading Agent - licensed to read! Your mission if you choose to accept it, will be to read 6 books over the summer holidays (with 6 library visits). There will be lots of fun along the way - codes to crack, puzzles to solve, and stickers to collect. Agents who complete their Mission by reading 6 books will receive a Certificate and Reading Agents badge. You can join the Reading Mission from Monday 10 July. It ends on Saturday 16 September.



***Story-times*** for under 5s take place every Tuesday in term-time, 10.15 to 10.45am. The last session before the school summer holidays will be on 18 July.



### Opening times

Tues and Thurs: 10 - 1 and 2.30 - 5.30

Fri: 10 - 1

Sat: 9.30 - 12.30

Please remember to bring your library card with you when you visit the library.

Liz Youngs / Jackie Troth (Library Assistants)

## LEIGH WOODS CORNER

At the time of writing (26th May) the low clouds and curtains of heavy drizzle sweep across from the direction of Ashton Court and cleanse the houses and gardens of our village. Bristol Water tells us that its reservoirs are 92% full. What summer?

Over the past three months life has not been idle. Sunrise Homes has seen its revised planning application to build a residential home for the elderly refused. The reasons given were that it was inappropriate development within the Green Belt, contrary to the council's local development plans, not in keeping with the character and appearance of a conservation area and that it would detract from the character and appearance of what is described as an historic landscape (i.e. the former Botanic Gardens site). We wait to see if Sunrise decides to appeal.

The Clifton Suspension Bridge temporary visitor centre is now in place on the Leigh Woods side of the Avon Gorge, in time to welcome the expected volume of visitors in the bicentennial year of Brunel's birth. It is anticipated that this will remain for up to two years by which time the permanent centre should be up and running. Will the focus of Bridge activity now switch from Clifton to Leigh Woods? The core structure has been swathed in strips of wood and topped off with a sunscreen at what is understood to be a five figure sum. (Though the basic structure looked perfectly OK and 'fit for purpose' - MB).

A posse of volunteers walked the village to pinpoint potholes in the roads and blocked gullies. The entries in the notebook covered several pages. Subsequently we discovered that contractors to the council have access to just one vehicle to cover gullies throughout North Somerset! Small wonder that many of our drains are full to the brim with leafmould and gravel.

Over the past few weeks we have watched stonemasons at work increasing the height of the boundary wall to Ashton Court along the length of Rownham Hill to eight feet. This is to allow deer to roam in this corner of the estate. The work entails clearing out faulty stonework and unwelcome growth (e.g. ivy in the original wall) as well as putting new stones on top.

The prospect of finally having a bus shelter at the top of Rownham Hill for those travelling into Bristol edges ever closer. There is a budget approved, designs of shelter have been tested and we now look forward to delivery - preferably before the rainy seasons ends!

Did someone query the necessity of having a parish plan?

Mike Burmester



## **LONG ASHTON W.I.**

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.15 pm  
on the 3rd Wednesday in the month.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| July 19th      | PAINTING ON SILK - Betty Quinion<br>Competition: Decorate a 6" paper plate |
| August         | NO MEETING   |
| September 20th | FISH AND CHIP SUPPER   |
| October 18th   | THE CUP THAT CHEERS - HISTORY OF TEA<br>- Hilary Everson                   |

## **WESTLEAZE W.I.**

Meetings are held in the Church House at 7.15 pm  
on the 1st Wednesday in the month

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| July 5th      | PRESERVING AN ICON - BRUNEL<br>John Mitchell<br>Competition: Souvenir of Bristol     |
| August        | NO MEETING   |
| September 6th | WILDLIFE GARDENING - Faith and John Moulin<br>Competition: An arrangement of grasses |
| October 4th   | MEMBERS' NIGHT   |

# LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs M L Addis B.A.(Hons)  
Telephone (01275) 393551

45 Long Ashton Road  
Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9HW

## Parish Councillors

|                   |  |          |     |         |
|-------------------|--|----------|-----|---------|
| Mr D G Aggett     | 13 Fenswood Mead                       | BS41 9BL |     | 393876  |
| Mr C Cave         | Rudge Farm,<br>Flax Bourton            | BS48 3QS |     | 462774  |
| Mr R Cook         | 5 Warren Lane                          | BS41 9DA |     | 392518  |
| Mrs J Coulman     | contact via office                     |          |     | 393540  |
| Mr J Glew         | contact via office                     |          |     | 392655  |
| Ms S Hardingham   | 79 Providence Lane                     | BS41 9DL |     | 393690  |
| Mr M E Harris     | Nightingale House,<br>Valley Road, L W | BS8 3PZ  | Br. | 9735878 |
| Dr P R Jackson    | 90 Theynes Croft                       | BS41 9NN |     | 392757  |
| Mr B May          | 6 Copland Lane                         | BS41 9NF |     | 393932  |
| Mr N Moorcroft    | Brookside,<br>Yanley Lane              |          |     | 394699  |
| Mrs A Mountjoy    | 23 Well Close                          | BS41 9NB |     | 392208  |
| Miss A Moser      | 11 Ardmore,<br>Vicarage Road           | BS8 3PH  | Br. | 9739876 |
| Mrs A Neal        | Eldon,<br>62 Long Ashton Road          | BS41 9LE |     | 392336  |
| Mrs J Pullin      | 1 Lovelinch Gardens                    | BS41 9AH |     | 393617  |
| Mr H B Roberts    | 18 Belmont Drive                       | BS8 3UU  |     | 392395  |
| Mr I Scoones      | Failand Lawn,<br>Clevedon Road         | BS41 3TN |     | 392676  |
| Mr J D Skeeles    | Wellow House,<br>7 Folleigh Drive      | BS8 9JD  |     | 392724  |
| Miss M Uppingham  | 35 Ridgeway Road                       | BS41 9EY |     | 393228  |
| Mr M Wilkinson    | Cranbrook,<br>65 Long AShton Road      | BS41 9HW |     | 392381  |
| Mr H C H Williams | 35 Fenhurst Gardens                    | BS41 9AU |     | 392690  |

**Pavement Parking  
IS DANGEROUS**

**A WARNING IN THE  
INTERESTS OF  
ROAD SAFETY**



## PARISH COUNCIL - CASUAL VACANCY

A casual vacancy has been created due to the resignation of Mrs. Sylvia Levy. If an election is not called the Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option at its meeting on 31st July.

People interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should send their name, address and CV to:

The Clerk, 45 Long Ashton Road, BS41 9HW. or  
e-mail: [clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

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## WASTE COLLECTION DATES IN AUGUST

Normal waste and green bags will be collected on

**FRIDAY** 1st September in **Long Ashton**

**SATURDAY** 2nd September in **Leigh Woods**

Also green bags will be collected one day later on

**FRIDAY** 18th August in **Long Ashton**

**SATURDAY** 19th August in **Leigh Woods**

There is no change to the Recycling Box collection.

