



August 2009

Issue 66

Chairman's Editorial

I am sorry to have to report that our Parish Clerk, Mrs, Christine Hartley, has left after serving this parish with distinction for about five years. She made many friends amongst the councillors and in the village and had built up a very worthwhile relationship with officers from BANES and with Cllr. Mrs Sarah Bevan. This has served the village well over the past few years. We all wish Christine well for the future and express our warmest thanks to her for all that she has done whilst carrying out her duties as Parish Clerk.

The month of August is supposed to be a quiet month for all councils, usually because many people are away on holiday- many of course like lots of you, looking after the children during the long summer holiday. I can't however say that this has been the case with the Parish Council. As well as being short staffed, we have also employed a qualified caretaker/ groundsman who is called Jim Murtagh, who we feel will make his presence felt soon in the village by his work and expertise.

In addition, the council has had two major items to deal with. The first is the 8-13 play area on the Recreation Field. The work on that is supposed to start next month but at the time of writing this (7th August) the council still has not seen the final plans, showing the proposed location of the various items in the play area nor indeed, seen drawings of the actual items. All this has to be finalised by August 14th.

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The Parish Council's Website can be found at www.peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk.
The website contains agendas for meetings together with Annual Reports and the Parish Design Statement.
To e-mail the Council please use: clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

Somerset Police District Radstock Neighbourhood Policing Area

Cllr John Bolwell attended the Parish Forum meeting on the 15 July 2009 and one of the major problems in the area is still Distraction Burglaries. We hope that the following information will be of use.

What is Distraction Burglary?

By and large, most people that call on you at home will be honest and genuine in their purpose and needs, but on odd occasions somebody will turn up unannounced with the intention of tricking their way into your house. These deceitful strangers are branded 'distraction burglars' or 'bogus callers'.

Any crime where a lie, trick or distraction is used on a resident to try and gain access to their home in order to carry out a robbery is classed as 'distraction burglary' or 'artifice burglary'. Victims usually find that they have had money or possessions stolen from inside their home and, in many instances, only realise they have been duped at some point after the crime has been committed.

The Typical Victims

The most horrifying aspect to distraction burglary is that its biggest target is the elderly, and in particular those women between the ages of 75 and 80 who live on their own.

The Typical Perpetrators

Criminals that specialise in the art of distraction burglary are not opportunist thieves but well organised and even sophisticated individuals. They usually operate alone or in pairs and appear on the doorstep under a remarkable array of guises including local council staff, builders, gardeners, care workers, nurses and police officers.

Bogus callers are usually friendly and believable and have even used children as part of the deception.

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What to do?

- If ANYONE comes to your door without a prior appointment do not let them into your home. If they are genuine they will not mind going back to their office and arranging an appropriate appointment.
- If you feel you are in danger and there is no neighbour to call on—PHONE 999.
- A safety chain should be fitted to your door enabling you to see who is calling without opening the door fully.
- Find out if there is a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area and make sure you have a contact for your liaison person . This is most useful as you will be advised of any known distraction burglaries in your area..

Facts about Distraction Burglary:

- Distraction burglary is one of the most underreported crimes.
- The average age of victims is 78.
- 74% of victims live on their own.
- 77% of victims are women.

Distraction crimes are largely committed in districts where the perpetrator is not recognised.

If you think you have been visited by a distraction burglar call the police on: 0845 456 7000



Peasedown Area Transition PAT



PAT is a community group in Peasedown St John which has come together to address the issues of peak oil and climate change and how best the community can adapt to successfully and happily meet these challenges in the future.

Peak oil is the point in time when the maximum rate of global [petroleum extraction](#) is reached, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline. The concept is based on the observed production rates of individual oil wells, and the combined production rate of a field of related oil wells. The high [dependence](#) of most modern industrial [transport](#), [agricultural](#), and [industrial](#) systems on the relative low cost and high availability of oil will cause the post-peak production decline and possible severe increases in the [price of oil](#) to have negative implications for the [global economy](#). Predictions vary greatly as to what exactly these negative effects would be although we all have noticed the rise in the cost of petrol!

So how does this affect us in Peasedown St John? We all rely on products derived from oil on a daily basis, from our commute, to the food we eat to the clothes we wear. The transition initiative is about looking at ways to make our lives easier and our community more resilient in the face of increased oil costs and decreased availability.

UPDATE:

Community Farm:

Land on the outskirts of Peasedown St John has been acquired for a community farm. A steering committee is being established, funding applications have been made and this summer things are really going to get started. If you want to know more we can put you in contact with Bridie or Andy.

Fruit Trees into Schools:

The initial idea was that we would raise funds for a fruit tree for each new class as they entered local schools. The children in the class could then tend the tree, watch it grow up, as they do, and eat the fruit they have helped to nurture. After PAT ran a stall at their Easter Fair to raise initial funds, Peasedown St John School, particularly the children in the Green Team, really picked up the idea and ran with it. The school have now added to the money PAT raised and planted a fruit tree for each year group in the school (7 in total)! The trees are apple, pear and plum and look great. If anyone can make or knows anyone who can make plaques to put on the trees please get in touch, the school do have some funds for this. It would be great to expand this if anyone has links to other local schools.

**For more information email
Peasedown.area.transition@googlemail.com**

Peasedown St John Christadelphian CHURCH NEWS

The longest day of the year has passed us - which means the evenings will be getting shorter - nights are drawing in – and before we know it Autumn is here. How many photographs have we taken this summer for the family album? Family portraits are always a point of interest and amusement to us when we look back at them. Photographs capture the human face at that very moment - happy or sad.

The human face is a fascinating part of one's character, unique to its owner. Have you ever sat down on a seat in a busy thoroughfare and studied the various expressions on people's faces as they pass you by? Better than watching television isn't it?

But what a contrast between the faces we see? Those with a glum look - those with a vacant look - those with a troubled look. On the other hand there are lots of happy open smiling faces - the product of a cheerful person - who has a pleasant word for all. Looks and attitudes speak volumes.

Faces reflect character, thoughts and feelings and can become a mask that hides inner troubles.

The Word of God can help us and change us and give us contentment - the Bible says 'that it can give us a peace that passes all understanding'. That inner happiness will be witnessed in our face.

For us all life is a seesaw - sometimes we are worried and depressed, sometimes happy and carefree - and it is there to see.

If we come to trust God and love His Word, joy will always be in evidence.

Jules

Peasedown Christadelphian Church www.psjcc.org.uk

You are welcome to our services each Sunday mornings [10.30 and 12.15] and our Bible Class on a Tuesday evening [7.45pm]. We particularly welcome you to our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 20th September at 10.30am.



See our website for more details
www.psjcc.org.uk



Peasedown St John PARTY IN THE PARK 2009

OVER 1,500 PEOPLE took part in Peasedown St John's first ever Party in the Park festival on Saturday 18 July 2009..

The event was opened by Glastonbury Festival founder Michael Eavis at midday and, after a year in the making, was a huge success.

In an attempt to build community spirit and bring people together hundreds of revellers listened to live music, took part in sumo wrestling and shopped at the Farmers' Market.

Local councillor and one of the event organisers Nathan Hartley said:

"I would really like to thank everyone for coming to this year's Party. Its success is a great testament to people's desire to feel a sense of pride in their community. With over 1,500 people attending we believe these were the largest crowds to gather in the village since the early 1990's.

To have Michael Eavis opening our first Party was, I hope, a blessing for the future. Interestingly, in his opening speech, Mr Eavis said that at his first festival in 1970 only 500 people came and he had two helpers.

Maybe in forty years time, Peasedown St John's Party in the Park won't be as big as Glastonbury but it will be just as renowned and respected as a community spectacle."

Overall, organisers raised more £2,000 which will be reinvested into next year's event. Prior to the day, £3,000 was donated in sponsorship by local organisations and businesses.

The success of Party in the Park 2009 has encouraged organisers to start thinking about next year already. Management Committee member Joy Fraser said:

"Peasedown St John's first Party in the Park was a great success. It was a culmination of a year's organisation and planning, and brought together large numbers of people from the community. We look forward to a bigger and better one next year."

The Party in the Park management committee are keen to receive feedback from attendees. Any comments received will be used in the organisation and planning for next year's festival. To provide feedback email nathan_hartley@msn.com

Cub Scouts

Developing a Taste for the Active Life

CUB SCOUTS are open to both boys and girls aged between 8 and 10½. We currently have 21 boys in the group, plus a small waiting list. During our weekly meetings we play a wide variety of games and undertake activities such as balloon racing, building pencil holders for Mother's Day, making craft spiders and small flower pots, and made dragons and toy cars from recycled scrap. The Police Community Support Officer visited the Cubs and talked about her work in the community and then we did a fingerprinting exercise.

The older Cubs had the opportunity of sailing in Bristol Harbour one evening, and two are planning to follow this up with further training in sailing.

We had the Wansdyke District Camp in early July, on a Superheroes theme. We had a Batman-style base with a spider launcher and spider crafts on offer. In total there were over 180 children from the area at the camp. This was followed by our Family Camp in Bristol where we had a fancy dress contest, orienteering and lots of games and crafts. We finished the term with a Climbing Wall and an Archery Evening.

We are keen to hear from any adults who could help out on Monday nights which would allow the Pack to take on more children. If you are interested, please contact me-

Andrew Wynd – the Cub Scout Leader on (07917) 124910.



Peasedown St John Methodist Church



There have been some exciting events over the last few months at the Methodist church that we would like to share with you.

Firstly Christian Aid week - a large number of hardy helpers gave much time visiting the majority of the streets in the village, collecting money for this very worthy cause. As a result, the total collected was £1204.29. A huge thank you to Ann Mead who coordinated the collecting and all those who helped in any way.

Secondly Peasedown Methodist Church was delighted to welcome villagers to three days of social events, known as 'Golden Years Holiday Club'. Between Wednesday 29th and Friday 31st July there was plenty for all to do, giving people a chance to enjoy activities away from their normal routine.

Each morning guests arrived, at 10.15a.m. either under their own steam or collected by volunteers. They were welcomed by the Minister, Rev Michelle Ireland, and , after coffee and biscuits, were offered a variety of things to do throughout the day, stopping only to enjoy a lovely two-course lunch and finishing at 3.30p.m. with tea and cake - even one day a cream tea.

Newspapers were provided for those wishing to keep up with current affairs. A few games, such as bingo, were on offer while, as usual, a jigsaw provided hours of happy concentration for those patient enough to tackle it. There were crafts to try, such as glass decorating, sewing a delightful 'cross in your pocket', napkin folding and even making scones and shortbread for everyone's afternoon tea. Fortunately, that day there was a gentle exercise class to prepare for all the eating to come!

Entertainment was provided ranging from John's magic show, singing accompanied by Richard on his keyboard and an organ concert by Mark Ireland. One afternoon, Ann Bull visited with her Pointer Dog and young Pointer puppy, as a member of the 'Pat the Dog' charity and on another, Helena Crouch gave an interesting wildlife talk.

On Friday afternoon, guests went home with button-holes they had made that day and were presented with a lovely memento of the holiday, a laminated picture and poem. Everyone, participants and volunteers, had a wonderful time thanks to the loving and caring atmosphere that permeated through the whole of the three days.

Forthcoming events -

we will be holding our Harvest Service on Sunday 27th September at 10.30.a.m.

We will be filling shoeboxes for SMILE.

Our Family Day will be on Sunday 1st November when we are pleased to invite Rev Ruth Farrant to conduct our services. Ruth is now a minister in Crewkerne.

Please come along to any of our events. we would love to see you.

About the National Blood Service

The National Blood Service is not to be confused with the National Health Service

We are an integral part of the NHS, and we guarantee to deliver blood, blood components, blood products and tissues from our 15 blood centres to anywhere in England and North Wales.

Naturally, we also ensure that the blood we supply is properly screened and is safe for patients. Every year we collect, test, process, store and issue 2.1 million blood donations. We depend entirely on voluntary donations from the general public, and try to encourage our existing donors to give three times a year. (It's amazing what the promise of a free cup of tea and some biscuits will do...) But we also have a number of other functions. Such as continually carrying out new research into improving the safety of blood. And new ways it can be used to help save more lives.

We also provide specialist medical advice and clinical support to hospitals, as well as educating and training transfusion medicine specialists. It's a huge undertaking. But we're dedicated to keeping Britain's blood supply moving.

...NEXT LOCAL SESSION

Thursday 5 November 2009
13.30 to 15.15 and 17.00 to 19.15
Beacon Hall
French Close
Peasedown St John

You can call the National Blood Service on: 0300 123 23 23

Or visit their website at www.blood.co.uk

DO SOMETHING AMAZING—GIVE BLOOD!



Community Play Ranger Peasedown St John

Session Times:

Monday

The Rec, Peasedown St John
3.30-6.00pm

Tuesday

Beacon Field, Peasedown St John
3.30-6.00pm

Thursday

The Green, Albert Avenue (until further notice)
3.30-6.00pm



The Community Play Rangers in Norton-Radstock, Peasedown-St-John and Keynsham are funded by Bath & North East Somerset Council and the Big Lottery and managed by Wansdyke Play Association. Since October 2003 the Community Play Rangers have been working and playing with children and young people.

Wansdyke Play Association have four teams of two play rangers working in parks and outdoor public spaces. These operate on an 'open access' principle meaning that children are free to come and go as they please as there is no registration is required. By being present in the park Community Play Rangers do their utmost to ensure children are kept safe yet at the same time provide opportunities for them to be challenged, take risks and have fun outdoors come rain or shine or even snow.

Come and join our free weekly outdoor play and activity sessions for 5-13 year olds. Open access.

To find out more come along to a session or call Wansdyke Play Association on 01761 420660.

www.playrangers.net

Peasedown Youth Club Opening Times
visit www.peasedownposse.com

Open Access Sessions: Monday & Wednesday 6.30—9.00 pm

Specialist Projects: Tuesday 6.30—8.30 pm. During this session you can work towards an Arts Award, taking part in activities such as dance and DJ workshops

Cafe Morning: Saturday 10.30 am —12.30 pm. Open to all the public.

ALL SESSIONS COST JUST 50p!

Call Bridie for full information on 01761 432294

STOP PRESS!

**B&NES to help alleviate unnecessary traffic through
Peasedown St John**

An enquiry from a resident has prompted the Transportation and Highways Department of Bath & North East Somerset Council to agree to the installation of signs at either end of the village directing traffic to the Bath Business Park. The increase in traffic through the village has become noticeable since Audi and Mercedes opened their prestigious showrooms. Without appropriate signage, the situation will become worse once the new hospital opens and more businesses move onto the park.

Area Traffic Engineer, Tasos Papaloucas confirmed that “signs at either end of the Peasedown St John bypass would assist in reducing the amount of unnecessary traffic entering the village.... site assessments will be undertaken in due course to establish the most suitable locations for these to be installed....I expect the signs will be in place before the end of October”

**The October issue of the Peasedown St John Parish Council Newsletter
will be available during the first week in November 2009.**

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I have asked Cllr. Mike Gregory to find out exactly what is going on but I have to say that, unless the council is made fully aware of the total scheme, then the play area cannot be started. I feel that most landlords would expect to be kept in the picture and that is all we are doing.

The second item is that relating to allotments. We have had suggestions, mostly from outside the village, that the council should give over a portion of the village cemetery to be used as allotments. I must say that this has received very little support in the community and a great many people are appalled that the cemetery use for allotments has even been suggested. I am unable to say that this move is entirely without interference from outside the village but it is true that some of the motivation for it comes from outside. Is there something about people's conception of Peasedown St John that allows them to think that we are incapable of running our own affairs and require non expert advice? I can assure all residents that whilst this council is in place, when we require advice, we will ask for it- but not until then.

Hope you enjoy the summer- now that it has come back.

Robert Butt (Cllr)
Chairman of the Parish Council
July/August 2009

