

Woodhurst Parish Council

The news media are full of stories and debates about future government spending reviews and the likely stringent cuts that will undoubtedly follow. There has also been much speculation about their impact on our local services as a result. It is only recently that we are beginning to realise the possible consequences as the coalition government drives forward its new policies. How this is going to affect us I can only speculate, but I think we can all expect to be affected in some way

Perhaps it is not surprising that the Parish Council has taken on board the likely fallout from local budgetary constraints to consider what extra expenses our community may have to contend with in the future, albeit on a much smaller scale. Put simply, if we want to maintain the status quo we may have to use our limited parish funds to pay for services that the County Council no longer have the money for.

During December, I was lucky enough to be involved with Christmas lunch laid on at the village hall for around twenty five older residents. It was a most enjoyable occasion and involved many people of all ages `mucking in` to get the food prepared and served. One thing it highlighted for me was that the village does actually have a vibrant community spirit and one that we must be proud of. We may not always appreciate it and we may not always want to put ourselves out for it, but for our all our sakes we may soon need it.

Alistair Marr, Chairman

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 14th March at 7.30pm

The Agenda and minutes of the last meeting are always available on the village website and noticeboards one week before meetings. Each meeting has an open section where villagers can address the meeting or if you prefer you can raise any issues with your councillors or you can contact Liz Pendered, Parish Clerk, on 822116.

NATURAL WOODHURST EVENTS

Butt Lane Work Party

Saturday 12th February

From 10am

Please wear gloves
and stout shoes

Wildlife Gardening Talk

By the Wildlife Trust

Thursday 17th February

7.30pm

In the Village Hall

Entrance by Donation—Refreshments Available

Please contact Andy Notman (823797) if you would like to write an article or advertise in this newsletter

WOODHURST NEWS

Also available at www.woodhurst-cambs.com

February 2011



Woodhurst Pensioners enjoying their Christmas Lunch. Over 20 current and former residents of the village sat down to all the trimmings. A good time was had by all and the cooking and service ran like a well oiled machine! For more pictures, log on to www.woodhurst-cambs.com

Old Hurst Village Quiz Night

Saturday March 19th

at 7.30pm

Old Hurst Village Hall

Adults £4.00, children £1.00

Bring your own drinks & supper.

Bring a team or join one on the night.

Contact Graham Bull (824001)
for more details

Village Hall

See the next issue for details of Spring and Summer Village Hall Events as well as Feast Week details.

Village Hall Contacts

Secretary : Annabel Armstrong : 824356

Bookings : Simon West 823803

Treasurer : Tracy Bass 822436

Natural Woodhurst

Butt it's a hedgerow!?

Over the next few weeks if you walk down Butt Lane, you may notice a short section of trees being cut down. This can look very destructive and you might wonder why this is being done, when we should be caring for and protecting our trees.

The simple answer is that the trees are being coppiced as part of the restoration of the hedgerow. Coppicing is a traditional way of managing hedgerows. The trees are cut to a certain height above the ground (4"-6") from which new growth will regenerate. Hedgerows were planted as boundaries and as stock proof barriers and usually would have been managed by hedge-laying to maintain them as such (for example, see the hedgerow down one side of the Pingle Field footpath). When hedgerows are left un-managed for a number of years, like the one down Butt Lane, they become over-mature and leggy and require coppicing to maintain them in good order. Where there are gaps, new native hedge species will be planted. This type of management is beneficial for wildlife too, as it helps make a thicker hedge near the ground, providing cover for a wide variety of plants, birds and mammals.

Coppicing is undertaken in the winter when the trees are dormant. Coppicing starts when all leaves have fallen from the trees and ends just as the new buds are about to appear. The timings vary each year due to the climate, but it tends to be from the end of November to the beginning of March. If coppicing were undertaken outside of these times, it would affect the re-growth of the trees. It would also disrupt nesting birds and harm the flora.

Pollards in the Claypits!

In addition, there will be pollarding of the willow trees in the Claypits Conservation Area. Pollarding is also a traditional way of managing a tree. It was done mainly in areas where cattle were grazing, or on field boundaries. The top branches of the tree are cut off at about 6'-10'. The tree then regenerates from the cut stems to form a multi-stemmed tree. Trees that have been pollarded for many years can be valuable for wildlife. Pollarded trees may live to a greater age than those not pollarded. This work at the Conservation Area will allow more light into the pond and reduce leaf litter, improving the quality of the water and increasing the variety of wildlife that can live in the pond.

Some of the timber produced from this work will be made available as firewood for Woodhurst residents.

Some of the initial work has been carried out by Village Volunteers, but the remainder will be done by a local contractor, paid for with the grant received from the Awards for All Lottery Fund

Phil Clark, Natural Woodhurst



LOTTERY FUNDED

St John The Baptist , Woodhurst

MORE IN CHURCH ON THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS THAN ON SUNDAYS!

Woodhurst Parish Church does it differently! When I first took St John's under my wings just over two years ago there was a very optimistic note and several ideas concerning the future of the church were forthcoming. One of the established events in the calendar was the monthly Holy Communion (Eucharist) service on the second Thursday which was, I was told, as much for those who came to clean as anyone else. I soon came to love that service with its traditional language but also for the opportunity for some fellowship over coffee after the service, when very often I, or whoever is leading Sunday service, has to dash off to another church.

It's a good event and for people, including clergy and ministers, who find Sundays a bit pressured it's a chance to relax in the week.

Then there began the first Saturday Open Church which was the initiative of Sally. We could never have imagined how popular this has become when up to 30+ people drop in for a chat and coffee – and a raffle for one of Tom's wonderful cakes!

What this demonstrates is, first that Church is not just about Sundays – we are trying to be a 24/7 church and second that the social life of a church is just as important as the worship for people to be able to come together and share in friendship and fellowship as well as more formal acts of worship. We offer it all to God and feel his love in return.

Long may it continue!

Chris Barter, Rector

Services

February

Sunday 6th Evensong at 6pm

Thursday 10th Communion 10am

Sunday 20th Family Service at 10.30am

Sunday 27th Communion at 6pm

Church Open Mornings are held on the first Saturday of every month from 10.30 till 12.30. Why not pop in for a coffee and a chat ?

Church Contacts : Revd Chris Barter 840676

Churchwardens : Andrea Marr : 822417 & Jan Pinder : 822500

PCC Secretary : Shirley Firth : 822958