

**LONG ASHTON &  
LEIGH WOODS  
NEWSLETTER**

**SUMMER 2012**

# JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2012

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.

Editorial Group for this issue - Jean Pullin, Janet Turp and Mary Uppington

*By submitting articles for publication  
you are also giving approval that they will also be used  
on the Parish Council website.*

## DISTRIBUTION

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**Long Ashton Parish Council, PO Box 3102 Long Ashton, Bristol  
or e-mail to [jeanpullin1@gmail.com](mailto:jeanpullin1@gmail.com)**

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the 4 months  
November & December 2012 and January & February 2013 is

**midday 1st October 2012**

© Editorial Group

*Front and back cover photos - Long Ashton's Jubilee Mug*

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The weather is finally improving after the driest of winters followed by a very wet April and a wet start to May.

This year has seen the campaign against Bristol City Council's disputed Public Right of Ways Committee's decision being accepted as incorrect by the Bristol City Council. We now look forward to exercising the real argument in front of the Inspector and thereby reaching a true and valued decision as to whether the north site is or is not a Town/Village Green.

Other threats to our green belt and amenity area are the proposed South Bristol Link Road and Rapid Transit route proposals being promoted by Bristol City and North Somerset Councils. The former will cut a huge swathe through our valued green belt from the A38 to the A370 bypass. It will devastate the Colliters Brook valley and then cut straight across the Ashton Vale flood plain. It dissects several footpaths without any facility being offered to cross this major road and your Parish Council finds this whole development unacceptable in its siting and with plans as they currently stand. The benefits to our community seem to be very marginal at best and completely outweighed by the problems it would cause, not least, that it will bring huge volumes of traffic to our area causing more difficulties, pollution and long delays for those who commute to Bristol and beyond.

The so called consultation at the village hall was very poorly advertised and therefore poorly attended and the consultation felt more like a presentation, with what appeared to be very little account taken of Long Ashton's legitimate concerns and opposition.

The Planning Inspector is currently listening to arguments being promoted about the Rapid Transit route to Bristol. Parish Councillor Rod Sterland has been attending and will be questioning the promoters at this hearing. This takes considerable time and effort and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts on your behalf.

*Continued from page 3 ....*

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is beginning to take shape and is also explained more fully in this newsletter, but we require people from the community to become involved. Can I please ask as many people as possible to add their input into this critical document. Contact can be made via the Parish Clerk Janet Turp.

Youth funding appears to be more assured. Your Parish Council has more than doubled its contribution and this combined with North Somerset Transitional funding and Community Funds adds up to a figure which should sustain youth provision. That being said we still need your help through joining the 500 club, details can be obtained from Dr. Phil Jackson.

We now have a new Vice-Chairman of Council in Mr. Gwyn Williams, a very eloquent and hard working gentleman to whom we wish every success. At the same time thanks are extended to our retiring Vice-Chairman, Ivor Scoones for his invaluable help over the last two years.

Dr. Janet Turp is now in place as Parish Clerk and is doing an excellent job whilst being on a huge learning curve.

If you wish to be of assistance on footpath maintenance please contact Cllr. Anthony Butcher.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Nigel Moorcroft.

# ***MY PRESENT TO THE PARISH***

I have had the hand written records (from 1894 - 1948) typed. All records have been converted to pdf and put on this website. This long term project was done at no cost to the Council.

This was to mark my retirement as Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council, I have put them on the Parish Council website:

**[www.longashtonparishcouncil.com](http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com)**

to be shared with the parish. At the time of writing this page has received 207 hits.

The records are deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF.

Marilyn Addis MBE

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## **LONG ASHTON PANTOMIME**

If you would like to take part in our next production, either on stage or behind the scenes, please get in touch with Val Bond.

Tel: 392148 or email [panto@longashton.plus.com](mailto:panto@longashton.plus.com)

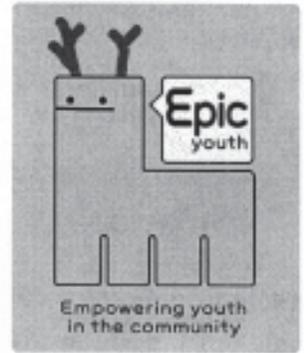
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## **POLICE PACT OPEN MEETING**

**Wednesday 5th September 2012 at 7.30pm**

at The Royal British Legion Club,  
1 Providence Lane, Long Ashton.

# Long Ashton Youth Club Needs Your Support!



Many of you will be aware that North Somerset Council has now closed down their Youth Service and made many/most of their youth workers redundant. From 1st April local communities must decide how they fund their local youth club. Keeping the youth club open is seen as important in Long Ashton to provide a safe place for many young people to meet and socialise.

Long Ashton Parish Council has responded to this challenge and has increased its support to the youth club. However, to keep the youth club open three evenings a week, we need to raise further funding. Central to this fundraising is the 500 club that was recently launched. **We need your support to achieve our target of having 500 members** each contributing £12 or more annually. My thanks to all those who have joined the 500 club and we look forward to the first draw in early June.

As part of the change in youth provision with North Somerset Council, we are pleased to welcome EPIC Youth - a Community Interest Company which has been established to run the youth club in Long Ashton and which brings together some of the council's most experienced former youth workers.

EPIC Youth has been formed by Kathy and Beccy, who together with Kim, will run the youth club three evenings a week. In EPIC Youth we have a dynamic and creative pro youth organisation that is dedicated to supporting young people in their communities, and working to reduce anti social behaviour. They can provide a wide range of activities including cooking, sports and crafts, run a drop in advising on Sexual Health matters and other issues e.g. bullying, alcohol and drug use as well as delivering the nationally recognised Arts Award accreditation. They are in discussion with the police, children's centres, schools and local networking teams to ensure that the local needs can continue to be identified and met.

With the current pressures of rising youth unemployment and extra financial challenges for the average family, Young People need the support of their communities. By providing a safe place to go where they can confide in highly trained youth professionals, young people will improve their chances of success in the future. Through diverse, fun and challenging activities our youth workers aim to empower young people to reach their full potential.

**Youth Club Opening Times in Long Ashton**  
**Monday and Thursday 6.30pm - 9.00pm**  
**Wednesday 5.30pm - 8.00pm**  
**Age range 11 - 19 years**

**Contact: [Kathy.epicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.epicyouth@gmail.com) or**  
**[Beccy.epicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Beccy.epicyouth@gmail.com)**

It is very rewarding that we have managed to keep our youth club open during this time of financial belt tightening. Thank you for your continuing support to the Youth Club. If you would like to support us in any way please give me a call. If you would like to support the Youth Club by joining the 500 Club please contact Sam on 01275 544138 or me on 07764 324000

Phil Jackson  
Chairman, Long Ashton Youth Club Management Committee.



# HEAR THIS!

Please note -  
hearing aid batteries  
are available from the  
Reception Desk  
at Long Ashton Surgery.



## **HAVE A CUP OF TEA AND CELEBRATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE**

***This summer Marie Curie Cancer Care is calling on all tea lovers again in North Somerset to put the kettle on in support of local Marie Curie Nurses.***

Are you celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this year with a street party, garden party or just with a group of friends? Why not join in with people across the country celebrating this milestone and raise funds at the same time for Marie Curie?

This year alone Marie Curie's local nurses will look to provide free care and support to 59 terminally ill patients and their families in North Somerset - yet there are more and more who need this support.

By getting together with friends, family or neighbours and holding a tea party of your own you can ensure this care can continue in North Somerset.

**Please register today online at  
[www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty)  
or call  
08700 340 040 for your free Tea Party fundraising pack**

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## **ANDRÉ PEEL PARK**

The Parish Council and the Long Ashton Community Association are delighted to announce that the new sports pitch to the west of Keeds Lane, to be called 'André Peel Park', will be officially opened on Friday 20th July at 6.30pm. This sports pitch has been created by Wimpey alongside the housing developments.

All residents are welcome to attend.

**If you enjoy tennis**  
why not play at your local Club  
at Long Ashton Community Centre,  
Keedwell Hill?



**Long Ashton Tennis Club welcomes all ages and abilities.**

We are a very friendly crowd and play at weekends, evenings and for those of you available, even Monday mornings. We run internal tournaments and play other clubs in the local area leagues. We also have a thriving Junior section with regular coaching sessions. When the tennis is over there is always a cup of tea in our very comfortable clubroom.

Prospective members are welcome at any of our club sessions.

For more details look at our website

[www.longashtontennis.co.uk](http://www.longashtontennis.co.uk) or

phone Cliff Bond 01275 392148 or Jill James 01275 392081

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# **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**Are you aged over 50?**

**Do you have some time to spare?**

**Want to learn and build upon your existing skills?**

Yes to the  
above? We need  
you!



We need your help in keeping other people aged over 50 warm and healthy in their homes, lowering their fuel bills and reducing their carbon footprint.

Call Helen Grimshaw  
on 0117 934 1448  
or email  
[volunteers@cse.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@cse.org.uk)  
for more information





# PLANNING

**GOOD NEWS!** By the time this Newsletter reaches you the children's play area at the junction of Pear Tree Avenue/Perry Road and the Sports Field off Keeds Lane should both be in use. We have waited so long for these facilities to be completed and can now look forward to them giving many hours of enjoyable recreation.

There has been great pleasure in learning that the Care Village application, on the former Barrow Hospital site, has been approved by North Somerset. This will see a range of provision for older people who need care and it is hoped construction will start very soon.

The appeal made about residential development not being granted, at Estune Business Park, has been dismissed by the Inspector but we still wait for an answer from the appeal about the proposed bungalow at 20 Lyvedon Way.

The Inspector's report on the Core Strategy was adopted by North Somerset Council and they are now putting together a "Sites and Policies Development Plan Document" (DPD) which should be available for consultation later this summer. There will be no change in Green Belt boundaries. Each village is being looked at to assess their needs and Parish Council representatives have already been involved in the discussions.

Housing is one of the main areas to be considered. A minimum of 14,000 dwellings are to be found, in the District, by 2026. Of these 4,950 have been completed, 3,200 have permission, 4,500 are anticipated in Weston villages leaving 1,350 to be allocated through the DPD. No additional housing is being allocated for Long Ashton and the employment sites at Yanley Lane and Pear Tree Avenue will be safeguarded.

Mary Uppington - Chairman - Planning Committee.

On Wednesday, 18th April, during a fortuitous break in the showers, 15 members of Westleaze WI and a few friends gathered on the green sward beside Catley Grove and Copford Lane. They were there for the planting of a double pink hawthorn tree to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a tradition which has been upheld on royal occasions since Westleaze WI was established in 1963. Jason Cox, the North Somerset Council Tree Officer, had arranged for the purchase of this special tree, sent three of his team to prepare the ground and allowed the use of the Council's 'silver' spade for the initial planting which was carried out by Mary Magro as President and Betty Collins, a founder member of Westleaze, together with a number of other members.



The following dedication was made:

*“On behalf of Westleaze Women’s Institute I dedicate this hawthorn tree to Elizabeth, Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, and President of Sandringham WI in Norfolk. May its beauty flourish and remind all who pass by of Her Majesty’s devotion to our country throughout her long and distinguished reign.”*

The ceremony over, a very heavy shower made watering-in unnecessary and the ladies retired to Gatcombe Farm for tea.

# Footpaths on Long Ashton Golf Course

An exploratory meeting has taken place between members of the committee and board of Directors of Long Ashton Golf Course and Parish Council to discuss possible changes to the routing of footpaths in order to provide a better experience for users.

The use of both the golf course and the footpaths has increased dramatically in recent years and this has led to some initial joint proposals that seek to provide a healthier, more interesting and, importantly, safer environment.

There are some fantastic views from the golf course over both the surrounding countryside and cityscape that are rarely seen by users of the footpaths, and these discussions present an opportunity to correct this anomaly.

Both the Parish Council and Long Ashton Golf Club are keen to stress that these are early discussions and that several user groups will be consulted as the process continues.

Long Ashton Golf Club

## PROBUS CLUB OF LONG ASHTON

*The club has a small number of vacancies for new members.*

*Men who have retired from full-time employment are eligible to join.*

*We meet on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at the British Legion Club, 1 Providence Lane.*



*If you are interested, or would like to attend as a guest, please contact the Secretary, Dave Addis  
07801 816612 or 01275 394523*



# WESTLEAZE W.I.

*Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the 1st Wednesday  
in the month in The Jubilee Pavilion.*

August	NO MEETING
September 5th	THE HISTORY OF HATS & HOW THEY ARE MADE TODAY Glynis Tyrrell Competition: A Favourite Hat.
October 3rd	LEATHER MAKING THROUGH THE AGES Barry Knight Competition: An Item of Leather.
November 7th	AGM & QUIZ No competition.

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## LAILA (LONG ASHTON INDEPENDENT LADIES ASSOCIATION)

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month  
at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

August	LUNCH
September 19th	HOBBLE SKIRTS AND HAREM PANTS Talk by Yvonne Bell.
October 17th	BINGO Tea and cakes.
November 21st	AGM and BRING AND BUY SALE for Charity.

# **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL'S FUNDING OF YOUTH CLUBS THE FACTS**

*The statement made in the leaflet promoting the Long Ashton Youth Club 500 club*

**“North Somerset has withdrawn all funding from the Youth Club”  
is incorrect.**

This current financial year a transition fund of £75,000 has been made available as well as an innovation fund of £250,000 for special activities and outreach projects. There are also three officers who are involved in monitoring and assisting youth clubs management committees to make successful applications for funding. Including the element of salaries of officers involved in the transition, North Somerset' financial commitment probably amounts to a figure in excess of £400,000.

Long Ashton Youth Club has received £4,650 from the transition fund and the committee is building a case for a figure in the region of £20,000 from the innovation fund. This fund will also be available next financial year.

North Somerset Council has to reduce its spending by £1 in every £3 over the four year term, which is not an easy task, nor a pleasant one to have to implement. This has meant that discretionary spending has had to be looked at critically. It is a fact that Youth Clubs cater for a small percentage of young people in the community yet have traditionally been in receipt of the lion's share of funding, which can no longer be sustained.

Through the innovation fund Youth Clubs are persuaded to connect, liaise and where possible work with other youth groups such as Scouts, Guides, faith groups, Junior Cricket, Football, Hockey and so on in order to provide a wider service.

The Youth Management committees were informed approximately a year ago that this change would have to take place and a number of meetings have been held with local groups to ensure that they have been fully aware.

Youth Club management committees will in future need to obtain funding from outside sources as well as fund raising initiatives themselves, which the Youth Club in Flax Bourton has been doing for many years. The task is to continue to fund the basic structure of the Youth Club in order to be able to benefit from grants that are available for all manner of youth activities. The Parish Council has substantially increased its provision for our Youth Club, and with the Club's own fund raising initiatives, together with a generous grant from a charitable trust calculated to make up the perceived shortfall, I am confident that the Club will be able to continue its work this year and indeed improve its coverage.

The Children and Young Persons Scrutiny Panel of North Somerset, of which I am a member, is closely monitoring the progress of Youth Club Management Committees towards self sufficiency. All our thanks must be given to the volunteers in particular to the Management Committee of Long Ashton Youth Club, who are working hard to weather the change.

I fully support the 500 Club fundraising initiative, I have contributed to it personally and would encourage everyone to do so.

Charles Cave.

# HOME ENERGY PROJECT ADMIN ASSISTANT

**SALARY: VOLUNTARY + EXPENSES**

**Are you over the age of 50?**

**Do you want to help other over 50's in your community be healthier, save money and protect the environment?**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is starting an energy advice project for residents aged 50 plus in Bristol, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire - the aim of the project is to help people stay warm and healthy in their homes, lower their fuel bills and reduce their impact on the environment. We're looking for friendly and enthusiastic volunteers from the same age group to help us deliver this service either in their local area or from our offices in Bedminster, Bristol.

We are seeking volunteers for a variety of roles including: project publicity, events support, home visits support and office administration. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary - just an interest in the project and its aims. Training and mentoring will be available to help develop your knowledge and confidence, and the project team will be on hand to support volunteers in all project tasks.

Examples of the opportunities available include:

- Helping to write and disseminate promotional material about the project.
- Researching and booking local events, presentations and training sessions to promote the project
- Helping with the booking of and preparation for home visits
- Assisting project workers with casework from home visits

Full details can be provided for each role and volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute to the project and shape their role according to their skills, interests, availability and time commitments.

For an information pack or informal chat about the project and opportunities for volunteering please call Helen on 0117 934 1448 or email [volunteers@cse.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@cse.org.uk)

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



As you may know the Parish Council has an office in the Jubilee Pavilion where the clerk is now based. To make it easier for residents to pass on information to the Council or to talk to the clerk it is planned that the office will be open to the public most Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon from the 7th August (allowing for the odd time when it will not be possible to open due to staff sickness, holidays or similar). Of course you are still very welcome to contact the clerk at other times by phone or e-mail. The office is usually manned from 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Thursday and some afternoons. There is an answer machine so you can leave a message if the office is empty and I will endeavour to respond to any messages the next working day.

The Council would like to pass on its thanks to Sara and Patrick Taylor for compiling the Village Directory for the last 16 years - they have done a tremendous job and the Directory is a real asset to all residents. Please see the request on page 26 of this newsletter.

It seems at last that the Parish Council have been able to take over the Play Area, Sports Field and Amenity Area on the new estates - this has been as frustrating for the Council as it has been for residents and the delay reflects mistakes made with the surface of the play area and difficulties in finalising the handover arrangements with Wimpey.

Don't forget about the "Nominated Best Kept Garden" competition. Any resident can nominate one individual address (not theirs) for the competition and all nominations should be sent to me by the 14th July.

Janet Turp  
Clerk of Long Ashton Parish Council  
Tel: 393551  
clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com  
PO Box 3102, Bristol, BS41 9XA.

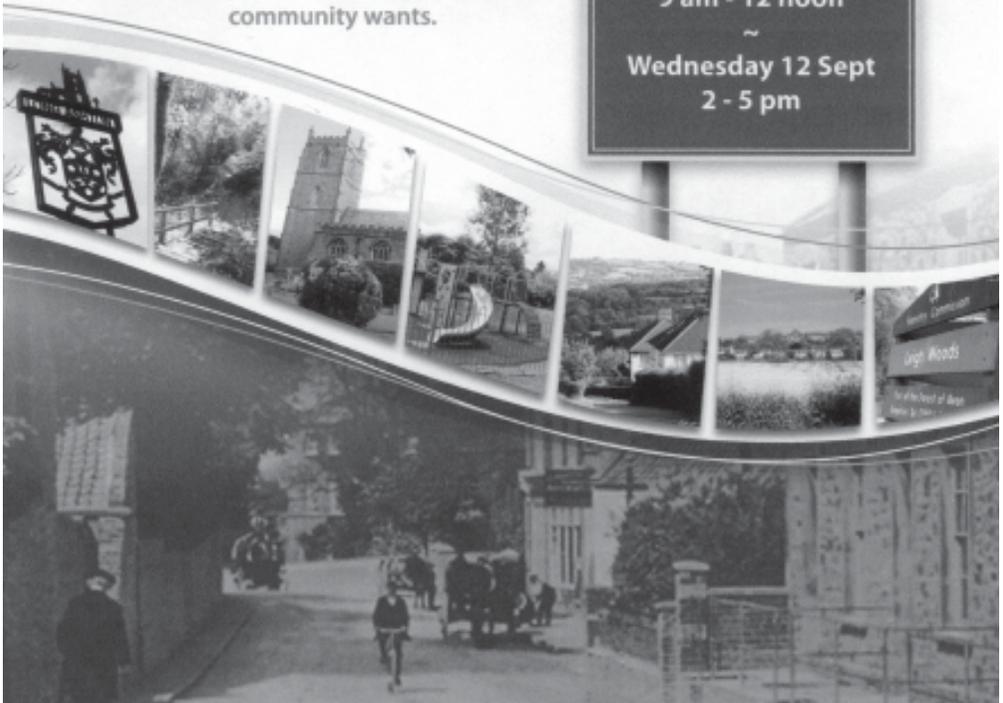
**What do you like about living  
in Long Ashton and Leigh Woods?**

**What would make living  
here better?**

**How can we protect what we have?**



These are questions we can address in a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The plan will be voted on in a referendum giving it real weight in local government decision making. Come and share your ideas with Parish councillors in the Village Hall and make the plan a true reflection of what our community wants.



## Ideas already being talked about include:

- a new centre for all youth activities
- allotments and a community orchard
- clearing the stream and creating a picnic area with information board to celebrate the history of our village
- developing a health centre to accommodate the needs of our population
- creating our own energy to heat and light our public buildings
- promoting our village pubs and walks
- encouraging commuters not to park here but at the Park & Ride



For further information visit

[www.lalife.org.uk](http://www.lalife.org.uk)



## NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Long Ashton Parish Council is currently putting together a new 15 year plan for the future of our village. Called the “Neighbourhood Development Plan” (NDP), this is part of a Government scheme to encourage communities to take control of development and improvements in their area.

The Parish Plan created a few years ago, and the extensive survey carried out as part of that, will form a core for this new plan. However, the NDP will look far more about what we would like to do as a community, especially using the new powers and responsibilities coming our way under the Localism Act.

This site is one way for you to get in touch and voice your opinions on the various ideas we (the Council) are putting forward. New ideas are extremely welcome too - we won't think of everything and this is an entirely open process for the whole community. Whether you love, hate or are indifferent to each idea, please do say so; one of the requirements is that we have to demonstrate that the community has been consulted!

As one of the front runners in this process, we have received a grant of £20,000 to assist with the process. Most of this will be spent on consultation costs, a formal inspection by North Somerset Council and a final referendum in the village that will make it into a legal document if accepted by the public.

There will be a questionnaire available on-line at [www.lalife.org.uk](http://www.lalife.org.uk)

Paper copies are available from:

[clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

Tel: 393551

# **REPORT of the ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23rd April 2012**

Cllr. Nigel Moorcroft welcomed everyone and began by thanking the retiring clerk Marilyn Addis who together with her husband Dave has worked tirelessly for the village for nearly thirty years. They will both be missed.

He then introduced new clerk, Janet Turp wishing her success in future.

He said it had been a difficult and challenging year with the continued threat to the Green Belt through the Bristol Rapid Transport (BRT), South Bristol Link Road (SBL), Football Stadium development and sale of land options to the south and east of the village.

He suggested people may wish to join the group of Councillors developing the Neighbourhood Plan and urged attendance at the coming exhibition of the SBL which he described as a disaster, cutting a swathe through North Somerset Council's highest valued area of Green Belt land and which would bring traffic chaos where it joins the A370.

With the loss of some Youth Funding from North Somerset Council the Parish Council had more than doubled its contribution to local youth provision.

He then handed over to the following Committee Chairmen.

Cllr. Mary Uppington (Planning) began her report saying that almost 50% of applications considered were for extensions to existing properties and that 90% of North Somerset's decisions agreed with our suggestions.

Extensions to Birdwell School and the Children's Centre were completed and land off Yanley Lane for extension to the cycle way had been agreed.

The Council were delighted that proposals for a Care Village on the former Barrow Hospital site, bordering our parish and mentioned last year, had been enthusiastically received by the general public and that the District Council had given their approval.

A long and frustrating battle to get necessary work on the play areas at Perry Road/Pear Tree Avenue and the Amenity Area off Keeds Lane is nearing completion and particular thanks go to Cllrs. Cave and Scoones for keeping up pressure on Taylor/Wimpey.

Three appeals were made on decisions made by the District Council. Nine elderly persons apartments at 14 Long Ashton Road were approved but a dwelling in the rear garden of 20 Lyvedon Way and Residential Accommodation instead of an Office Block at Estune Business Park still awaited an Inspector's decision.

Leigh Woods residents experience much mess and inconvenience where work progresses on 6 new dwellings in the perimeter of Bracken Hill whilst permission has been given for the house to remain as one dwelling instead of conversion to the six apartments previously approved. The Portacabin housing the Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre has had its temporary permission extended for two years. An application for a permanent building is expected in the near future.

The District Council accepted proposed modifications in the Inspector's Report on North Somerset Core Strategy and the final document to be published shortly indicated the Green Belt boundaries in North Somerset will remain unchanged.

The Localism Bill received final Government approval in November and it now remains to be seen how various policies and plans will work out in practice.

Cllr. Jean Pullin (Highways, Footpaths and Burial Ground) began with an expression of thanks to Cllr. Harry Williams for the many years he has given carrying out and overseeing projects on footpaths over very many years. Gratitude was also expressed to several volunteers who responded to an appeal for help and who have begun some maintenance on the footpaths. Cllr. Tony Butcher will oversee all work in future.

Among Highways matters was a discussion with North Somerset Council regarding options for the zebra crossing near the old Northleaze School and a decision is awaited on replacement lighting poles which will make the location more prominent. The website query regarding removal of the railings at this spot resulted in 50% for and 50% against.

Work to complete the Long Ashton section of the Festival Way from Yanley Lane to B3128 has begun. A scheme to help slow traffic between Glebe Road and the railway bridge, with pinch points and minimally raised platforms, has now been agreed which will make crossing Yanley Lane safer for cyclists.

A diversion order is being prepared for the very muddy path across the field from Yanley Lane to the churchyard to be diverted to the new cycle track/footpath/bridleway which will enable those attending church, and especially the Northleaze school children, to walk on a dry path away from main road traffic. This order will also include a regularisation of the path, at present in a muddy field parallel to the wall, to continue through the Burial Ground which will necessitate a break in the south wall.

The Council, amongst others, opposes the Bristol Rapid Transport which will impact upon the parish and Cllr. Sterland will deliver a report at the enquiry in May.

A commissioned survey of the memorials at the Burial Ground showed many headstones were unsafe and some were laid flat. Work costing in the region of £20,000 is ongoing and efforts will be made to find owners to obtain recompense where possible. Some owners have already carried out work at their own expense.

The newer land is designated an open grassed area with tributes to be kept within the shelf on the headstone for ease of maintenance. Unfortunately some owners do not adhere to this and objects need to be removed.

The Garden of Remembrance, designed 20 years ago, also has rules concerning floral tributes being placed only on the back wall. Despite purchasers signed agreements the area became planted and very overgrown and after much discussion the committee decided to remove all extraneous material and grass the area. Plot owners were contacted where possible and articles placed in the newsletter.

The troublesome Clock Stones in the newest area have been replaced and we thank the anonymous donor who bore the cost of this work.

Various problems encountered included litter bins being used for household rubbish, now adapted to receive only small items. Despite the 20 dog bins in the parish, mess is still a problem. The cost of emptying these, full or half-full, was £1,500 last year and will double to £3,000 in future. Pavement parking by inconsiderate drivers continues.

She concluded by announcing the appointment of two young ladies as a replacement for the retiring Village Orderly.

Cllr. Sheila Hardingham, (Finance and General Purposes Chairman) began by explaining that the need to recruit a clerk to replace long serving Marilyn Addis was a new experience and thanked the members who helped in the process.

Marilyn had worked from home and this now presented an opportunity to set up a new parish office in the Pavilion and thanks to Jonathan Skeeles, the previous Chairman, the Council had built up a fund to cover this cost.

She explained that we had been careful to keep an eye on our administrative expenditure by keeping postage and stationery to a minimum and using e-mail where possible. However North Somerset Council is also trying to keep their costs down and inevitably some additional costs will fall on the Parish Council. It can be welcomed as part of localism but does impact on our budget. The Parish Council therefore decided to increase the precept by 3% for the new financial year, still below the rate of inflation.

She pointed out that the Youth Club, a thriving club open on three evenings a week with over 70 members is a high priority for the council. A Community Interest company had been set up and the club has re-opened. The Parish Council has promised financial support but £6,000 still needs to be raised by the Management Committee.

It was good to see the wide and full use of the Community Centre which is one of the main expenses to parish tax payers with about 18% of the budget going to it. Thanks were extended to the Community Association and Manager.

It was appreciated the delay in completing the play areas has frustrated some residents but with repair work outstanding it would be wrong for residents to pay for work the developers are obliged to do. The Parish Council will want to set up a Residents' Committee to oversee play areas, so if any residents from the new areas are interested in helping with this Cllr. Hardingham asked that they contact her.

Many Long Ashton residents oppose any encroachment in the Green Belt and the Council has been careful to build up reserve funds toward the cost of likely battles over this. Concern, so far, has focused on the traffic and parking implications of the football stadium and rapid transport bus proposals.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by those Councillors involved in preparing the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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The following report was also included in the Burial Ground comments:-

### **All Saints Churchyard Wildlife Conservation Area**

This area, adjacent to the Vicarage wall and south of the oil tank, has continued to be managed by not mowing between March and August thus allowing plants to set seed. When the area is mown, the mowings are removed to prevent them from enriching the soil. It was sad to see that the orchids did not return this year where they were before but a new plant occurred elsewhere. Orchids often behave like this so the wanderers may return next year. Moon daisies also appeared for the first time. The primroses, cowslips and fox and cubs all spread cheering the heart with colour.

I would still be very pleased if someone (or more than one) could offer to record birds, insects and mammals visiting as this is not my area of expertise. This would not be an onerous job - just come down occasionally and see what you can find. Indeed, I would be only too pleased if any naturalists interested in seeing how the area develops could help with the monitoring. Please let me know if you could help.

Our thanks are due to the Parish Council for supporting this endeavour and to Jason Collins for organising the mowing regime. Without them this project could not happen.

Jill Watkins (393282) [jillwatkinsla@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jillwatkinsla@yahoo.co.uk)

## ***THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE***

As has been the custom at the Silver and Golden Jubilees of Her Majesty, the Parish Council will again distribute Jubilee Mugs to pre-school, nursery, infant and junior schoolchildren attending Birdwell and Northleaze schools.

The chosen design was the competition winner for Blue Peter and a localised logo is printed on the reverse incorporating the Long Ashton logo seen at the entrances to the village.

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### LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS DIRECTORY

**A Volunteer is required to compile the sixth edition.**

This directory is an invaluable document which is delivered to each house in the village and included in the Welcome Pack for new residents.

Sara and Patrick Taylor have done an excellent job, for many years, and the material they have used will be available to assist whoever takes over.

This useful booklet gives quick reference for emergencies and other activities and it will be so well received if an up-to-date edition can be produced.

There is also a website that runs in tandem to the printed booklet - if the same people could look after both that would be good but they could quite easily be run independently.

Will anyone who is interested please contact our Parish Clerk, Dr. Janet Turp,  
as soon as possible.

Tel: 393551

Email [clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

# THE WEST OF ENGLAND MS THERAPY CENTRE HAS MOVED

*After 26 happy years in Nailsea,  
The West of England MS Therapy Centre (801155)  
has moved to new, purpose-built premises in  
Bradley Stoke.*

The new Centre is much larger and better equipped, with decent parking, and means we will be able to support many more people with Multiple Sclerosis from the Greater Bristol area.

The MS Therapy Centre provides therapies and support that helps people to live well with MS, remaining active and independent for as long as possible, and to recover after a period of relapse.

**Our new address is:  
Bradbury House, Wheatfield Drive, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DB.**

For more information please see our website  
[www.mstherapybristol.org.uk](http://www.mstherapybristol.org.uk)  
call 01454 201 686 or  
email [info@mstherapybristol.org.uk](mailto:info@mstherapybristol.org.uk)

If you would like to support the Centre and its work, or take part in one of our events, please email [fundraising@mstherapybristol.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@mstherapybristol.org.uk)

# FLOW ENERGY

FLOW Energy is a not for profit community energy group covering Long Ashton, Wraxall and Failand. Our longer term aspirations have been worked up based on community feedback. These include the development of community-scale renewable energy projects, the profits from which would be invested in services for the benefit of the local community.

In January we were awarded a grant from the DECC Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF). LEAF aimed to provide the finance to empower local communities to carry out assessment work to better understand the energy efficiency and scope for implementation of renewables in their local area.

LEAF has been rolled out in a co-ordinated manner with other government Environmental initiatives. The grant was intended to help communities to prepare for new opportunities in sustainable energy and climate change arising from the Green Deal, Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed in Tariffs.

For FLOW, our aim was to gain information on which we can base our plans for a portfolio of energy projects for the benefit of our whole community.

The grant has allowed FLOW to undertake a survey of the housing stock and community buildings in our area, in order to gauge current energy usage and carbon footprint, and identify what energy efficiency measures would be appropriate for each of our housing types. FLOW hopes to use the results to support householders to improve energy efficiency and reduce bills via the Green Deal and bulk purchase schemes for energy efficient measures.

FLOW has also carried out renewable energy feasibility studies for the three villages, using a range of specialist consultants.

From this work, we have discovered invaluable information which will be used to guide the group as to where to concentrate our efforts. Although no renewable technologies are ruled out, there are some significant challenges associated with the exploitation of some of them within our area. We have decided to concentrate our initial efforts on energy efficiency measures, and bulk purchase of solar systems for homes.

The majority of homes have cavity walls and approximately half of these are estimated to have had them insulated. A range of measures have been identified for making improvements to energy efficiency of the housing stock. There is potential to make reductions in carbon emissions of about 30%, some **12,000 tonnes per year** based on modelled household energy demand.

The solar study found that over 90% of the addresses in the area are potentially suited to some form of solar technology. The figures suggest that on average a home optimally installing a PV system could save around 1 tonne of carbon dioxide (i.e. 0.27 tonnes of carbon) per annum. The area as a whole could save 3,476 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum (equivalent to about **1,000 tonnes of carbon per year**, for comparison with the figure for energy efficiency above). Over the 25 year assumed solar PV system lifetime, the average total benefit (per household) after the cost of the system is subtracted is calculated as £13,573 (based on various assumptions), which makes installing solar PV very attractive. Just imagine how much we could save if we implemented solar PV on all suitable roofs in our area! Taking these results forward, FLOW hopes to facilitate the implementation of more solar technologies in our area by making it simpler and cheaper for householders.

Whilst energy efficiency can be seen as dull, comparison of the two carbon savings figures demonstrates its importance. Indeed to qualify for the Feed in Tariff for solar generation, a household needs to demonstrate a certain level of energy efficiency. Some initiatives are ongoing including free insulation to all qualifying householders in North Somerset. Get in touch on the email address below for more information.

To find out more, come and see us on our stand at the Long Ashton Village Market, or see our website

[www.flow.coop](http://www.flow.coop) for further information including the summary report of our findings.

For a response to a specific question or if you would like to join our group, get in touch [info@flow.coop](mailto:info@flow.coop)

In particular, we are looking for an accountant to join our committee.



# Avon Wildlife Trust

## Long Ashton Group

*All meetings are held at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.*

***PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE - JUBILEE PAVILION***

Thursday 18th October

**BADGERS**

Adrian Coward will tell you about their lives  
and answer your questions.

Harry Williams Tel: 392690

## **ATTENTION - ALL DOG OWNERS**

**The old problem of Dogs' Mess is again on the rise.**

Really bad areas are the path above the railway line from Paulman Gardens to Wild Country Lane and along Dawson's Walk from Lampton Road to Yanley Lane.

Dog Owners, please do take a bag with you and pick up your dog's deposits.

There are many bins available to put the bags in.



## FRIENDS OF LACA

Over the last couple of years, the Long Ashton Community Association has organised a number of successful events - Quiz Nights, Village Picnics, Theatre Evenings, and a Family Activity Day. In the pipeline are a Beer Festival and an LA's Got Talent competition! The LACA Trustees and a number of other Long Ashton residents have helped to make these events run smoothly.

In order to build on this we would like to set up a very informal "Friends of LACA". This would simply consist of a number of people on a list who we could call on to help for an hour or more at an event. We absolutely promise that there will be no committee meetings! We would just call or email you to see if you were available for a particular date and you wouldn't need to commit to every event - just those that either you are around for or those that appeal to you.

If you think you could help in this way please  
either phone or email Sarah Leong  
01275 393570      [laca@btconnect.com](mailto:laca@btconnect.com)

Thank you!



# **LA's Got Talent**

## **Saturday 20th October 6.30 pm**

### **in the Village Hall**

**3 Categories: 4 - 11 years (primary)**

**11 - 16 years (secondary)**

**16+ (adult)**

Can you sing, play an instrument, act, juggle, recite a poem,  
do gymnastics?

We'd love to hear from you.

Please send an email to  
[laca@btconnect.com](mailto:laca@btconnect.com) for an entry form.

Further details to follow in the next newsletter.

## **LONG ASHTON BEER FESTIVAL**

Long Ashton's first ever beer festival takes place in the Village Hall on  
Saturday 29th September.

There will be two sessions 12noon - 5.00pm and 6.00pm - 11.00pm.

Live music will be provided by local Bristol band "The Gecko Blasters"  
in the evening.

A hog roast will be available at both sessions. The festival is being  
organised by Brizzle Beer Festivals and tickets can be booked through  
their website from the beginning of July

[www.brizzlebeerfestivals.co.uk](http://www.brizzlebeerfestivals.co.uk)

We envisage this event will be very popular so buy your tickets early!

# FORTHCOMING THEATRE EVENTS

In conjunction with Theatre Orchard we are excited to have two further productions coming to our Village Hall in the Autumn.

The first is entitled "The Six Wives of Henry VIII" - Two Actors, Too Many Characters and One Big Ego, and will take place on Friday 14th September. This production was an undisputed hit at last year's Bristol Old Vic Ferment Fortnight, and with live original music, embroidery, Barbie Dolls, silly songs and historical hysteria, this promises to be an ill-researched lesson in cross-dressing Tudor history that you'll never forget.

The second show is rather different. "The Guild of Cheesemakers" by Stand and Stare Collective is a theatrical wine and cheese tasting event for a maximum of 40 people where the audience is central to the dramatic action. There are four actors, two cheese and bread experts and a multi media element. This will take place on a Friday evening in November.

For further information please contact Sarah Leong on 01275 393570 or email [laca@btconnect.com](mailto:laca@btconnect.com)

## EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY DAY



LACA's first ever Easter Holiday Family Activity Day was a great success with approximately 200 children attending. Soft play in the sports hall was busy all day and many workshops were completely oversubscribed although providers did their utmost to accommodate as many children as possible. A varied programme of activities using four of the Community Centre's spaces meant that there was no time to be bored - jewellery making, bath bomb making, art workshops, music sessions, football, street dancing, zumba, cookery, a story walk and more. It was great to see so many people come along and stay for the whole day. To top it all a very reasonably priced cafe provided light refreshments and lunches. Rolls and cakes were completely sold out before the end of the day!

We plan on running a similar event next Easter so watch this space or "like" our Facebook page to keep in touch with everything that goes on here!

# Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th August 2012

*Now in its 34th year, the Fiesta is the largest Hot Air Balloon event in Europe and one of the UK's top five outdoor events.*



The schedule for the event will run as in previous years, with mass ascents taking place on Thursday 6th at 6.00pm and then daily at 6.00am and 6.00pm on Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August.

*This event brings a large number of visitors and traffic into the area. Please look in local papers, for details of traffic arrangements, nearer the time.*

## **WANTED !** **DELIVERERS for NEWSLETTERS**

*Volunteers needed*

*to deliver to 2 roads 3 times a year:*

**BRAMLEY COPSE (51 houses)**

perhaps 2 people could share this road

**FENSWOOD ROAD nos 14a - 41 (28 houses)**

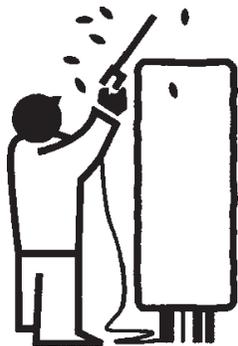
Contact Jean Pullin Tel: 393617  
if you are able to help.

# A Request for Information

I'm interested in the buildings which used to be on the Somerset bank of the Avon roughly opposite the successive Hotwell houses. There was the New Inn, of course, Wellington Cottage and a very large building opposite the first Hotwell house whose function is a bit of a mystery to me. I know there was a lead works in that area and a (dye?) mill. People used to cross from Hotwells by ferry for strawberry teas.

I'm wondering if any members of the parish can help me whether through their own knowledge or by suggesting other people or written sources.

If able to help please contact  
Brian Jones, 20 Masefield Crescent, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5PH.  
or email [brian.jones@catfish.plus.com](mailto:brian.jones@catfish.plus.com)  
Tel: 01235 525295



## 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.

*Think about the comment from a blind lady, her dog is two foot high and walks under the branches, she is six foot and they hit her straight in the face.*

*Please cut them back.*

