

### In this edition...

So far, this summer is proving to be a bit of a washout (the rain is pouring down as I'm writing this).

But it's also holiday time, and if you're going to be away from home there's some useful advice on this page from the police about how to reduce the risk of being burgled.

Meanwhile, the municipal cogs continue to turn, and Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) has published its latest accounts. You can find out where the money comes from, and where it goes, on page two.

On the same page, BLTC also wants your views on the town's public toilets. To close them or not to close them: that is the question.

A summary of BLTC's response to Kettering Borough Council's options for future development in Burton Latimer appears on the back page.

And finally, there's a reminder (see below) about this year's open-air performance of HMS Pinafore in the grounds of Burton Latimer Hall – which, in true British style, will go ahead even if it rains!

Warwick Hunt

Editor, Burton Latimer News  
July 2012

### Don't get beaten by the burglars

There have been several burglaries in Burton Latimer recently – all involving forced entry via a back door or window, and occurring when residents are either out or on holiday.

The police have suggested a few simple precautions for householders to take, especially as we approach the holiday season:

- Tell a trusted neighbour you are going away, leave a contact number and give them a key. Ask them to take in the post, and open and close curtains.
- Consider using plug-in timing devices to make lights in different rooms go on and off at different times.
- If you are in a Neighbourhood Watch Area, tell your co-ordinator when you will be away.
- Cancel your milk and papers – but don't announce it in a busy shop!
- Don't broadcast that you are away on twitter or facebook.

**Don't become a victim and come home to a nasty surprise!**



You can also help to prevent burglaries in your area by keeping a sharp lookout and reporting anything out of the ordinary to the police. Suspicious activities include:

- Cold calling.
- Suspicious markings on the road or pavement, which may be identifying a property as a potential target to other members of a burglary team.
- People carrying pillow cases; burglars sometimes use these as "swag" bags.
- Slow-moving vehicles looking at properties on your road to identify potential targets.

**If you notice anything out of the ordinary, ring the police on 101**

### Open air theatre returns to Burton Latimer

The critically-acclaimed theatre group Illyria returns to the grounds of Burton Latimer Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – this time, to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore.

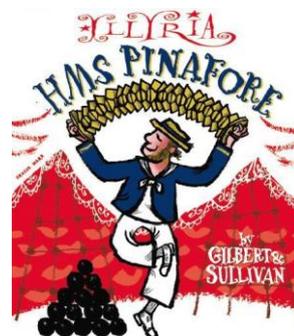
For an entertaining evening, bring a picnic and low chairs or a rug – then sit back and enjoy the show.

Gates will open at 5.30pm and the performance will begin at 7pm.

Tickets cost £15 for adults, £7.50 for ages 16 and under – or £40 for a family ticket (2 adults + 2 children).

The performance will only be cancelled in the event of a hurricane – and if that happens, it will be re-scheduled.

For tickets (which are non-refundable) or further information, please call 01536 725096.



## Burton Latimer Town Council

### Payments & Receipts Account Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

2010/11		2011/12
£	RECEIPTS	£
12,560.00	KBC - Annual Grant	10,650.00
1,190.00	Farmer's Market	855.00
15,000.00	Precept	17,500.00
5,718.79	Reclaimed VAT	2,281.76
3,509.94	KBC Grant - Christmas Lighting	3,250.00
14.83	Bank interest received	18.61
9,833.27	NCC Empowering Councillors Grant	3,205.00
1,304.75	KBC Councillors Ward Fund	577.15
50.00	Public donations	400.00
287.50	Insurance claim	N/a
718.18	Heritage Society	97.26
800.00	Sale of Furniture	21.05
5,745.19	Wind Farm Grant	N/a
256.50	Christmas Lights Switch on	250.00
1,000.00	ACRE Grant (Parish Plan)	N/a
1,045.00	Room Hire	1,731.47
1,874.30	Rent	6,513.61
N/a	KBC Town Centre Grant	4,400.00
79.91	KBC Non-domestic Rate Refund	N/a
<b>60,988.16</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>51,750.91</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
5,095.89	General administration	5,440.96
6,152.10	Other	9,102.77
33,578.31	Civic Centre	16,074.70
14,311.43	Salaries & wages	15,113.90
1,000.00	Chairman's allowance (£500 balance pd April 2012)	500.00
<b>60,137.73</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>46,232.33</b>
<b>850.43</b>	<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>5,518.58</b>
<b>24,274.55</b>	<b>BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR</b>	<b>25,124.98</b>
<b>25,124.98</b>	<b>CARRIED FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR</b>	<b>30,643.56</b>

*Accounts are subject to External Audit*

## County Council news

### Keeping services going when funds are tight

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is adopting a three-pronged approach to ensure that, in a climate of budget reductions, the growing number of children and elderly people in the county continue to receive the care and support they need. This approach involves:

- **Prevention** – intervening early to enable people to live independently for longer.
- **Shared funding and staff** – especially between social services and health to cut out unnecessary duplication.
- **Transfer of staff** – into publicly-owned arms-length bodies that can compete for work from other councils and individuals.

However, if this strategy doesn't work and social service demands continue to rise, NCC may have to consider making savings in non-statutory services – such as libraries.

### Support for local projects

This year every county councillor has £6,000 available to improve the facilities in their locality.

If you have a pet scheme that can only go ahead with some help from this fund, please contact me.

Burton Latimer's representative on Northamptonshire County Council is Christopher Groome.

He can be contacted by email at [chris.groome@b-r-t.co.uk](mailto:chris.groome@b-r-t.co.uk), or by 'phone on 07973 638742.

## Public WCs at risk as the cost of spending a penny rises

Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) has been informed that it costs almost £22,000 each year to keep the public toilets in Churchill Way open – even though they are rarely used.

At a recent meeting with Kettering Borough Council's Head of Environmental Services – who has been reviewing the provision of public facilities in Kettering and the A6 towns – councillors discussed three

options: (1) to install an automated time-lock to open and close the toilets each day; (2) to ask Burton Latimer council tax payers to contribute up to £5,000 towards the annual running costs (and to lock up the facilities each evening ourselves); or (3) to close the toilets and seek alternative facilities in local supermarkets, shops and cafes – as Kettering has done.

BLTC acknowledged the problem, but felt that some provision for visitors to the town was needed and that none of the options was ideal.

After much debate, the council opted in principle to close the toilets, but to seek further information before confirming the decision.

If you have views on this issue, please contact any BLTC councillor (see back page for details).



## Looking after our highways and byways

### Councillor Fergus Macdonald describes his role

Traffic and transport were among the top five issues concerning local residents in our 2011 parish plan survey.

As Burton Latimer Town Council's highways representative, my role is to keep a close eye on all aspects of this topic that affect the town, and to liaise with the relevant authority when necessary to get things done.

As well as monitoring the state of our roads, my remit covers the upkeep of pavements, public footpaths and bridleways, and the maintenance of verges and street lighting.

It also involves advising on speed restrictions and parking arrangements in the town, HGV routes, bus routes and the location of bus stops, and signage.

#### Lobbying and liaising

The responsibility for our highways actually lies with Northamptonshire County Council or Kettering Borough Council – or one of their contractors.

My job is to find the right person to speak to about a particular local problem, and to press them for a solution that gets the best possible result for our town.

But that's easier said than done, as it's not always clear who's in charge of what!

Grass-cutting is a good example of this, as the responsibility is split between the county and the borough councils.

Another is street lighting, which is not always down to the county council or their nominated contractor to sort out.

And the upkeep of our footpaths and bridleways depends on the problem – and in some instances, the path itself!

#### Finding the funds

The main challenge at the moment is financial, with the county and borough councils both having to make their increasingly restricted funds go as far as possible.

This means that things aren't always sorted out as quickly as we would like, but sometimes it is better to wait for a permanent solution rather than opt for a quick fix.

This is particularly the case with pothole repairs – although I know this is no comfort to the long-suffering residents of Hillcrest Avenue, who are still waiting for their road to be resurfaced.

#### Seeing the benefit

In spite of these difficulties, I think we have seen some major changes for the better in Burton Latimer. For instance: High Street is safer since the introduction of the 20mph zone;

## Diary dates

### Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

All BLTC meetings start at 7pm, and take place at the Civic Centre.

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Planning Committee meetings

- Monday 20<sup>st</sup> August 2012
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012

new signage from the A6 and A14 has led to fewer HGVs passing through the town; many roads have been resurfaced; and the bus service to Kettering has been revised and extended. These are just some of the things we've managed to achieve.

Local residents may, of course, raise issues directly with the relevant authority if they wish, but in most cases I think it is more helpful for me to act as a single point of contact when dealing with the county and borough councils and their contractors.

That way, I can channel concerns to the right department, keep track of what's going on, and balance individual requests with the wider picture of what's best for the town.

**If you have a local highways concern, please contact Fergus Macdonald by email at [h.macdonald1@sky.com](mailto:h.macdonald1@sky.com), or by 'phone on 01536 725922.**

## Accidents at new roundabout cause concern

Burton Latimer Town Council is advising road users to take extra care when approaching and negotiating the new roundabout at the Cranford Road / A6 junction.

Since the revised road layout opened at the beginning of June

there have been several near-misses and two major accidents – including one fatality.

The new junction has been heavily criticised by local councillors – who had previously voiced their concerns about the basic design of the roundabout to

Northamptonshire County Council before it was built.

The County Council has now accepted that there is a problem, and is reviewing the design of the junction urgently to identify any remedial measures that need to be carried out.

## Future development in Burton Latimer: BLTC's response to consultation

Burton Latimer Town Council (BLTC) has submitted its formal response to the options for the town's future development outlined in Kettering Borough Council's consultation document.

The response – which takes account of views expressed by local residents at a drop-in session held at the Civic Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – urges the borough council to revise the options document in line with the feedback received, and to adopt a final version urgently to protect our town from speculative development in the wrong places.

In its response, BLTC has emphasised the need to protect the historic part of Burton Latimer and the conservation area – both from inappropriate development and from HGV traffic.

The importance of considering the infrastructure requirements alongside any future development proposals was also stressed.

As well as making specific recommendations about the location of any new housing in the town, BLTC's response suggests five principles as a framework for future development decisions:

- Green open space should be preserved in three areas around Burton Latimer: around Burton Latimer Hall in Kettering Road; in the Ise Valley; and to protect views to the parish church from the A6 bypass on the Kettering side of the Higham Road junction.
- All developments should relate well and be supportive of the town centre, as agreed in the town's Urban Design Study.
- The main area of housing and employment development should be in the Higham Road area.



- A second area for employment development could be in the triangle between the A6 and A14 at junction 10.
- All infill development should be of a scale, design and density to complement existing buildings.

A full version of Burton Latimer Town Council's response to the consultation is available online at [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org)

### Contact Burton Latimer Town Council

Town Clerk: George Sneddon

☎ 07732 331946

@ [council@burtonlatimer.org](mailto:council@burtonlatimer.org)

✉ Burton Latimer Town Council, Burton Latimer Civic Centre, 120 High Street, Burton Latimer, Northants. NN15 5RH

### Contact Burton Latimer News

@ [newsletter@burtonlatimer.org](mailto:newsletter@burtonlatimer.org)

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## Burton Latimer Councillors – contact details

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KBC – Ruth Groome, Jan Smith and Derek Zanger represent Burton Latimer on Kettering Borough Council

NCC – Christopher Groome represents Burton Latimer on Northamptonshire County Council