



### In this edition...

If you like applying for things, you will find plenty to interest you in these pages.

For instance, on this page there is information about how Burton Latimer residents can obtain grants or loans for energy saving schemes.

Grants are also available to help eligible residents with their winter fuel costs, and these are described on page two.

And looking ahead, if your child is due to start primary school in September 2013, there's a reminder on the back page about the need to apply before 15<sup>th</sup> January to secure your preferred choice of school.

In other news, there are details about two important posts to be filled in the next few weeks – one for the county and one for the town.

First, on page two you can read about how we're to elect the county's first Police and Crime Commissioner on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

And secondly, there is currently a vacancy on the Town Council. If Maureen Jerram's article on page three inspires you to roll your sleeves up and get involved yourself – then now's your chance.

Warwick Hunt  
Editor, Burton Latimer News  
October 2012



### Support for energy-saving schemes

Burton Wold Community Fund was set up in 2006 by Your Energy, the company responsible for running the Burton Wold Wind Farm.

The fund was pump-primed with an initial payment of £40,000, with a further £10,000 (index-linked) to be added by the company each year for the life of the wind farm – which is expected to last for 25 years.

The fund is there to support energy saving projects for the local community. Burton Latimer residents can apply for grants and loans to enhance the energy efficiency of their homes – such as, by installing micro-wind turbines, photovoltaic or solar hot water systems, or energy-efficient central heating systems.

So far the fund has been applied mainly to schemes involving the installation of solar panels, although the uptake to date has been slow.

Projects are assessed on a case-by-case basis – but typically a 25% grant of up to £1,000 or a 75% interest-free loan of up to £3,000 (repayable over three years) may be awarded towards the cost of a residential scheme, with the balance being provided by the applicant.

Larger amounts are available for community projects. For instance, Burton Latimer Girl Guides secured £10,000 to install an energy-efficient hot water heating system at their well-used headquarters in Alexandra Street. And solar hot water panels were installed in Yeoman's Court in Meeting Lane, and these now provide around 70% of the hot water for the residents' communal areas – which amounts to about 853 gas units each year.

The scheme – which currently has an uncommitted balance of about £37,000 – is administered by Kettering Borough Council. Further information and application forms are available at [www.kettering.gov.uk/burtonwold](http://www.kettering.gov.uk/burtonwold).

### Town Mayor's Charity Dinner

Burton Latimer Town Mayor's Charity Dinner will be held at Great Harrowden Hall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The evening will include a three-

course meal plus coffee, and the guest speakers will be radio presenter and author Sarah Kennedy and her partner Adrian McGlynn.

Tickets for the evening cost £25

each, and can be obtained from Christopher Groome, 1 Preston Court, Burton Latimer. Application forms are also available online, at [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org).

## Police and Crime Commissioner elections

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012, people across England and Wales will, for the first time ever, elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force area.

The person we elect in Northamptonshire will have powers to set the strategies for policing the whole county, and can even remove the Chief Constable – who remains in charge of day-to-day management and operation of the police force.

Our PCC's task will be to ensure that Northamptonshire's policing needs are met as effectively as possible, and this will involve working in partnership with a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a joined-up approach to preventing and reducing crime.

The role will be a very important and influential one, so it is absolutely critical that the right person is chosen.

There are six candidates for the new post, who all have a passion for improving the police service and reducing crime, despite the large amount of savings that are required because of the economic situation.

The candidates are: Lee Barron (Labour), Jim MacArthur (UKIP), John Norrie (Independent), Adam Simmonds (Conservative), Matt Stockdale (Independent) and Paul Varnsverry (Liberal Democrat).

They have all expressed a wish to listen to the opinions of local people, and two of our town councillors who have been to hear them speak have issued an invitation for the winner to make an early appearance in Burton Latimer.

Information about the six candidates is to be circulated, and you can find out more from the website: [www.policeelections.com](http://www.policeelections.com).

Please remember to vote on 15<sup>th</sup> November so that you can influence this very important need to keep our communities and individuals safe and free from crime.



## Civic Centre parking

New signs have been erected behind the Civic Centre to remind motorists that the area is not a public car park.

The reason for the notices is that an increasing number of vehicles have been parking in the spaces reserved for permit holders only.

However, there is no restriction on vehicles parking in the unmarked bays – although owners should be aware that they do so at their own risk.

## County Council news

### Government grant cut

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has learned that the reduction in Government grant for next year (from 1<sup>st</sup> April) is likely to be greater than previously expected by some £16 million.

This means that the County Council's existing plans for service remodelling and efficiency improvements may need to be brought forward.

And it makes the shift in social services away from dealing with problems towards preventing them happening even more urgent.

### More help for career and education choices

With schools now legally required to give students advice on career and education options at ages 14 and 16, NCC has outlined plans to make this happen.

A three-pronged approach will combine mapping the courses and apprenticeships available, briefing careers advisers, and creating an app for social media that can be accessed by young people.

The aim is to close the gap between employers' requirements and what is currently being delivered by schools and colleges.

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.

## Burton Latimer Ancient Parish Charity – winter fuel grants

Burton Latimer Ancient Parish Charity is an amalgamation of several charities that go back over 400 years, and is administered by nine trustees drawn from institutions and organisations within the town.

It is best known for grants that are made in the New Year to deserving applicants, mostly elderly, to help pay for winter heating costs.

Other grants can be made on the recommendation of medical or social workers, or other organisations, to help with costs not covered under national or local schemes.

Applicants are asked to state their total income from pensions and all other sources before a decision is made by the trustees.

The grants are modest, but can sometimes make a big difference to

the recipient.

The amount of the fuel grant differs from year to year depending on the income from the charity's investments and the number of successful applicants – and it is paid directly to the power supplier.

Application forms are available from Becky Hall, 23 Spring Gardens, Burton Latimer, and need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.



## Doing my bit for the Pocket Park and local groups

### A Councillor's personal view

By Maureen Jerram

I have been a Burton Latimer Town Councillor for over 12 years now.

During this time I have always chosen not to align myself with any political party because I firmly believe that party politics have no place in local town councils.

Speaking personally, I feel that this decision helps me to act for local residents according to their needs, as I see them.

My role as a town councillor has been very varied over the years.

Although I very much admire colleagues who are involved in the town council's Planning Committee I quickly decided it wasn't for me!

I felt ineffective as a Burton Latimer Councillor because sometimes we seem to have very little influence over planning decisions – which isn't to say that we shouldn't keep trying!

#### Pocket Park pride

Two of the things I am passionate about are the Pocket Park and the Annual Duck Race.

The Pocket Park is a lovely place for residents to walk in and enjoy. And the Duck Race, apart from being a really good afternoon out, raises funds for the Park. In fact, it is our only fundraising activity and brings in enough money to pay for diesel to run the machinery we use

to keep the paths open. All the conservation work is done by a small team of dedicated volunteers.

#### Supporting local groups

I am also the town council representative on the local Medical Centre's Patients Participation Group.

Working with the Practice Manager, this group has achieved many improvements – such as more appointment time, pre-bookable appointments, and better information for patients.

I am also a member of the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, which is the group that draws up the Town Council's budgets for approval.

It can also make recommendations for spending the council's funds in ways that benefit the local community.

However, the current economic climate means we have to use the funds we receive very carefully, and so we can't always do as much as we would like to do.

I am also on the Council's Events Steering Group. This is a fairly new group that oversees such things as the Christmas lights switch-on, and helps with any of the council's social or promotional events.

Being a town councillor is never dull – there's always lots to do!

## Diary dates

### Burton Latimer Town Council meetings

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

Full Council meetings

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013

Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Planning Committee meetings

- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

### Town Mayor's Charity Dinner

- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
Great Harrowden Hall

### Christmas lights switch-on

- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

## Could you be a Town Councillor?

The recent resignation of Councillor Debbie Russell has created a vacancy on Burton Latimer Town Council.

A new member for Latimer Ward will be chosen by election (if more than 10 of the Ward's electors have requested one) or by co-option.

For more information about the role, or to express an interest, please speak to any Councillor or the Town Clerk – whose contact details are on the back page.

## Christmas lights switch-on

This year's Christmas lights switch-on will take place in the town centre on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The annual family-friendly event starts early in the evening, and will feature the John Scarrott fun fair, plus seasonal music by the Salvation Army band and our local school

choirs to get us into the festive mood.

Some of our local artists will be displaying their work, and St Mary's School will be holding a craft fair.

What's more, the local shops will stay open until late, and there will also be various craft and food stalls

– with the Friends of St Mary's offering mulled wine and the scouts serving their renowned burgers.

And one lucky child will win the chance to switch on the lights at 7pm.

If you wish to book a stall please contact Jan Smith on 07774 588652 or email [jan.l.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.l.smith@btinternet.com).

## Primary school places – apply now for September 2013

Families with a child whose fourth birthday falls between now and the end of next summer are being urged to apply in time for a primary school place for September 2013.

Northamptonshire County Council is reminding parents of the importance of identifying the three schools they would prefer to send their children to if they wish to secure a place of their choice.

Cabinet member for children, learning and skills, Councillor Andrew Grant said: "The admissions system gives families the chance to tell us which schools they'd prefer to send their children to.

"While most people are successful at getting a place at their preferred school, there are steps that parents can take to maximise their chances. Submitting an application form in time is the most crucial, followed closely by nominating a second and third choice school.

"The bottom line is that there are no guarantees of getting into a preferred school, but the chances of a successful application will be higher if parents tell us before the deadline which three schools they'd prefer."

Applications for primary school places are being accepted online until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 for children who will be four years old between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

If your application is received after the deadline you may not be able to secure a place in any of your preferred schools.

This year, 931 primary school applications were received outside the application period. The majority of those were for reception and years 1 and 2.

Further information and online application forms are available from [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk).



Alternatively, paper forms can be obtained from (and when completed, should be sent to):  
**School Admissions Team**  
**Northamptonshire County Council**  
**PO Box 216**  
**John Dryden House**  
**8–10 The Lakes**  
**Northampton**  
**NN4 7DD**

### 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