

Burton Latimer *sounding board*

www.burtonlatimer.org.uk

Autumn 2010

Burton Latimer Town Councillors' Newsletter

I have been very busy going around supporting and visiting local events and have been completely amazed at not only the amount of activities there are in Burton Latimer but also at the dedication of the people who run and help at various things, and how welcoming they make people feel.

One thing for certain, there is no reason for anyone to be bored in Burton Latimer.

The following are just some of the activities I have enjoyed being involved with:

- The May Fair and prize giving at Meadowside School.

- Giving out the prizes in a recent Championship Day at the bowls club.
- The Monday Club, which is held every Monday at the bowls club where they have lunch and do various interesting activities. Anyone over 60 is very welcome to attend.

This is just a small sample of things I have been to and I have yet to sample the Wednesday whist drive and I am sure many more interesting things.

Councillor Maureen Jerram



STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..OFFICIAL OPENING OF CIVIC CENTRE by David Laing, High Sheriff of Northamptonshire : 12th November

The Burton Latimer Civic Centre was acquired in January 2010, having been neglected for some 6 years. It was vandalised and in a poor state of repair. The remedial work required included the installation of new windows and sky lights throughout, which was funded by the councillor's empowerment fund.

Various alterations were undertaken to improve the overall effectiveness of the building and then furniture was procured from the office closure of HM Revenue and Customs at Kettering.

The Community Payback Scheme, as managed by the Probation Service, have done fantastic work. Their efforts are much appreciated, as they have overcome some arduous tasks including clearing the building of broken glass and copious amounts of debris, knocked down and rebuilt walls, plastered and painted to get the building back to a usable state.

The refurbishment is now in its final stages with plastic cladding being applied to the external woodwork, making it maintenance free. A new footpath is being laid together with shrubs being cleared, and a new bike rack being cemented in (as part of the green initiative) all paid for out of the Councillor's Ward Initiative.

The revamped interior consists of three rooms for the Heritage Society and four rooms for BLAST (Youth Drop-in). The central area will serve as a Council Chamber, being of a dual nature, as rooms are available for hire to enable training or community activities to take place. The building is readily accessible and DDA compliant, with full refreshment making facilities.

There are also two suites of offices which we hope to let to commercial undertakings in the near future, and therefore with the combination of short term hire and permanent tenants, BLTC will supplement its running costs.

We hope you will take the opportunity to view and maybe use the facilities in the near future, and look forward to welcoming you.



BLAST: **(Burton Latimer Anti-Social Behaviour Team)**

We have listened to what the young people of Burton Latimer have been telling us - that they have nothing to do!

We are very pleased that with the opening of the new Civic Centre, BLAST are going to open a brand new 'drop-in' centre for young people aged between 12 and 17 years.

Two youth workers will be helping with this and it will open shortly, initially on a Wednesday and Friday evening.

It is hoped to eventually expand this to have specific activities rather than a drop-in on some other evenings.

Activities at the drop-in centre will be decided by the young people themselves.

Highway Matters

The main item to report on is that the roads, pavements and street lighting on the Cornfield Way estate have now, after almost twelve years, been adopted by the County Council. This is in addition to the adoption by Kettering Borough of the area off Harvest Close, so hopefully we can now put these issues behind us.

The ongoing problems of burst/leaking water mains close to the bridge on Finedon Station Road have now been resolved, and a section of the road in this vicinity will be resurfaced in the near future. The dangerously low gully in Finedon Road has been repaired and the other issues regarding gullies have also been resolved. The 'No Entry' wording has been painted on the road at Elm Street and we are liaising with the police regarding a suitable letter to send to the residents to ensure that the law is obeyed in this respect.

The final version of the new signage regarding HGVs entering the town has been verified and initial discussions have taken place so as to ensure that as many as possible of the delivery companies are fully aware of the restrictions. At the same time additional signage will be provided to indicate the possible crossing of the A6 by pedestrians where the footpaths cross the road.

With help from others a survey of the footpaths in the town is currently being undertaken.

A close watch is being kept on the work of installing the cable connecting the plant at Black Ridge Farm to the main grid at Station Road.

We are also keeping up the pressure to get the maximum amount of work carried out on the roads in the town.

Neighbourhood Watch

There are a number of these very successful schemes already running in Burton Latimer. If there isn't one in your street it would be very worth while setting one up.

They are the eyes and ears of any unsociable or criminal activity in your area.

The co-ordinator would also have up-to-date reports of any criminal activity in the area to pass on to you, as well as safety advice and much much more.

For more details contact Peter Hill on 01536 725281.

Empowering Councillors Fund

County Councillors are each given the opportunity to spend up to £10,000 a year on local projects.

Of that sum £3,000 has to be allocated for work with children and young people, for example in schools and youth work.

If you have some good ideas which might not happen without financial support, please contact Christopher Groome on 01536 420440 or email cgroome@northamptonshire.gov.uk



Parish Plan

Funding has been secured from ACRE for the production of a Parish Plan for Burton Latimer. A small Working Party has been established so that a draft plan can be prepared by the end of this year with a final plan being produced by late autumn 2011. This will follow the issuing of a comprehensive questionnaire to all households. The final plan will form the basis for most decisions regarding the future of our town over the next five to ten years. It is important that we obtain the widest possible input, therefore all comments are most welcome. Please contact Fergus on 01536 725922 or 07767 398386.

Heritage Society

Following the hard work by the Town Council, the Community Payback Scheme and, not least, its own members, Burton Latimer Heritage Society is delighted to have finally moved into new accommodation at the Civic Centre.

After ten years in its first floor room at The Poplars, it now has the use of a museum room, a room that is mostly to be used for research, a connecting room between the two, and an office.

An application is being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to finance its fitting out, but in the meantime a temporary exhibition has been arranged. This will feature some of the items that have been donated to the Society during the last two years.

Many people, who on account of a disability or having very young children were unable to mount the stairs to the old museum, will now be able to visit the exhibitions and look at the

archive of hundreds of photographs that can be seen in the research room. This room has a table and comfortable chairs, reference books and, in due course, a microfiche reader to look at parish records.

The Burton Latimer Heritage Museum is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm or other times by appointment. These times will be extended next year. For more information ring 01536 722722.



The **Farmers Market** has been going now for over four years, and has proved very successful, however as the economic situation has worsened so has the attendance.

I must ask the people of the town to support the traders, who continue to travel to Burton every month to supply you with fresh farm produce.

Come and meet with your local councillors, purchase a coffee and a cake from Friends of St Marys and support your local charities of which there is one represented every month. Use it as a meeting point, come and make it a community event, but most off all support those who have kept their faith in the residents of Burton.



Dare I mention it, Christmas is on the way and your Town Council has scheduled for 26th November a Victorian style Christmas light switch on with charity stalls and fair attractions, rides and side shows.

Entertainment will be provided by Nigel Adair and Carly Jayne Panter, and as last year, we hope to bring a Victorian theme to the festivities, with plenty of activities for the children.

Last year was most enjoyable with the Salvation Army Band and school choirs adding musical variance to the event. We hope you enjoy this year's event, and will support the fundraising efforts, to bring you a magical evening.

The new Civic Centre will be open, with local artists in residence, showing and selling their paintings, pottery, needlework and jewellery.

The evening promises to be most enjoyable, so please come along and enjoy the festivities, perhaps sampling mulled wine and a mince pie or two!



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Burton Latimer Town Council Ball: Saturday 5th March 2011

To reserve tickets please ring Jan Smith on 07774 588652

email: jan.l.smith@btinternet.com

Burton Latimer Walkabout

The third annual walkabout with senior executives from Kettering Borough Council recently took place. This is proving to be a very worth while exercise as it identifies areas that need to be addressed throughout the town.

The main areas visited were:

1. The rear of the new Civic Centre where repairs to the wall and the cutting back of trees and shrubs was discussed and agreed.
2. The condition of the area at the rear of the shops in Churchill Way and, whilst this is private land, a course of action was agreed upon to improve the situation.
3. Discussions also took place regarding the toilets and other aspects regarding the car park.
4. The King George V playing fields were visited and it was agreed to carry out remedial work on the fence line, also the area at the rear of the adjacent garages. In addition certain work will be carried out to the all weather pitch area. A proposed course of action was agreed regarding dog fouling in this area.
5. Hawthorn Close was visited to examine concerns expressed by residents and a course of action agreed upon.
6. It was agreed that the Church Street car park would be lined in the near future.
7. Several other issues were discussed and courses of action agreed upon. Most of these involved working with third parties to obtain the desired result.

In all, some eighteen issues were examined and actions agreed upon to further improve the environment within the town.

Town and Borough Councillors

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