

## Gringley on the Hill Parish Council Newsletter - Spring, 2006

### Parish Council Election

Eleven candidates have been nominated for the election on 4th May, 2006:

Angela Mary Chambers, Hugo Nicholas Canning Dunkley, David John Foreman, Lynda Jane Foster, Paul Hargrave, John Edgar Hargreaves, Patricia Jane Duncan Hilton, Nigel Paul Sennett, Gordon Shepherd, Malcolm George Taylor and Andrew Martin Turner.

Ian Tremelling and Terry Way have decided not to stand, and we thank them for their excellent service and wish them well for the future.

An election will be held at the Village Hall to fill the nine seats, but see published notices about absent voting. Polling hours are 7 am to 10 pm. Please use your vote.

### Best Kept Village Competition

We asked CPRE for feedback on our performance in 2005:

The judges in each round congratulated the village on an excellent first time entry.

- In the June judging it was felt that some verges and hedges lacked care and attention. Also, garden rubbish had been dumped on West Wells Lane. Laycock Avenue was considered less cared for overall than Low Street.
- Also in June, it was felt that commercial areas such as farm entrances and pubs were very good, as were the bus shelter, notice board, cemetery, school and surroundings and The Fairpiece.
- The conclusion in June was that the village should be placed joint fourth.
- In the July judging, the areas criticised in June were much improved, although the verges could have been cleaner. The commercial areas were considered excellent. It was felt that the village was a caring community, worthy of first place.

We intend to retain our title this year, and we'll be up against Everton who will be tough opposition. It's up to us.

### Housing Needs Survey

North East Bassetlaw Forum is to provide funding for a village survey in June. Every household will receive a questionnaire, and it's important that these are completed.

### Gringley Wharf

The County Council says that British Waterways won't agree to the construction of moorings for the following reasons:

- An enquiry about moorings at Gringley was made two years ago and rejected due to opposition from certain residents.
- The canal isn't wide enough to permit moorings.
- The canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with water voles resident.
- Dredging would be necessary.
- The canal bank is soft-edged and would require piling.

As things stand, the County Council won't consider funding this part of the project, so we're going to try to persuade British Waterways of the benefits of providing moorings - the canal bank needs rebuilding anyway, so there's an opportunity to take it further back, thus overcoming the width problem. Even if we fail, we consider that the village green is in need of improvement and that the rest of the project should proceed.

The County Council Heritage Team is keen to support a community archaeological day on site, with around ten participants, but with scope for people to view proceedings during the day. We're currently trying to arrange it.

### Detention Centre Site

Together with Mr. Chris Downton, we recently met a Home Office agent, Mr. David Boyne, to discuss the future of the site. New demands were noted from the District Council regarding affordable housing, namely 25% of the housing to be built and given to it for sale to a housing association or similar. Mr. Boyne said that his remit was to maximise value, and that he had retracted the earlier offer of £100,000 towards community use pending resolution of the whole issue. He wanted to finalise matters this year.

On building costs, Mr. Boyne said that, at 4,000 square feet, the likely cost of the community centre would be in the region of £400,000. He enquired whether a replacement building could be provided on the site of the Village Hall, but was told that this was not possible. He was told that it might be better if the community centre was located nearer to the village end of the site. He was also told that outside funding opportunities were unlikely. He was told of our requirement for perhaps six allotments on site.

He asked for certain information, and was later informed as follows:

- A new community centre should be donated as part of the package.
  - Subject to the above, the proposed woodland area could be used for residential development.
  - Affordable housing should be provided on site.
- He also asked for information from the Village Hall trustees, whose response was:
- The new community centre should ideally cover 4,000 square feet.
  - Revenue costs could not be given until after the community questionnaire exercise.
  - The Committee is to obtain valuations of the Village Hall site.

### The Buttercross

We're concerned about vehicles overriding the green area surrounding the Buttercross, so we're proposing to place three dressed stones on the corners. English Heritage supports the proposal, and we just need the consent of the District Council

### Cemetery

We're going to locate a hardwood notice board in the Cemetery.

### Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the summer, but don't forget our bi-monthly surgeries. You can also use the contact details below if necessary. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon, and digests of minutes of Parish Council meetings are printed in each issue. You can also read approved minutes of meetings, etc. at various places, including the Post Office and the village pubs, and on the website. PTO

### Contact Details

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