

Gringley on the Hill Parish Council Newsletter - Spring, 2006

People

The following were elected at the May elections: Angela Chambers, Hugo Dunkley, David Foreman, Lynda Foster, Paul Hargrave, John Hargreaves, Trisha Hilton, Gordon Shepherd and Malcolm Taylor. We wish new councillors Angela and Lynda every success in their new roles.

Our appreciation goes out to Ian Tremelling and Terry Way, who retired from the Council, and to the unsuccessful candidates.

Gordon Shepherd and David Foreman were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Unfortunately Gordon has recently resigned from the Parish Council, and we wish him well for the future. A new chairman will be elected on 26th July, 2006. Paul Hargrave and John Hargreaves remain on the Parish Plan Working Party, as do David and Hugo Dunkley on the Quality Working Party and David and John on the North East Bassetlaw Forum.

Annette Simpson has replaced Nip Martin (retired) as Everton Ward Member on Bassetlaw District Council. She has vowed to work unstintingly to further the interests of our rural area.

Handyman, Frank Bartlett retired recently, and our appreciation goes out to him for all his work for the village over a good number of years. We wish him the very best in retirement. Frank has been replaced by Robin Shrimplin, who we welcome and wish well. We're extremely grateful to Robin, who has voluntarily repainted the railings on High Street above the hanging bank – a big job! This community-minded gesture is greatly appreciated.

Quality Accreditation

The Parish Council, together with Everton and Misterton Parish Councils, are the first three parish councils in Bassetlaw to be awarded Quality Accreditation by the National Association of Local Councils. We've been working towards this goal since 2003, and had to demonstrate excellence in:

- representing and actively involving all parts of the community
- being effectively and properly managed, with members and the Clerk upholding a high standard of conduct

- working closely with voluntary and community sector groups, and articulating the community's needs and wishes through effective communications.

The Quality Scheme was launched in June 2003, following the publication of the Rural White Paper 2000. It was designed to provide minimum standards to enable local councils to better represent their communities. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations.

Now Gringley on the Hill Parish Council has been independently assessed as one of the best in the country. This puts us on a firm footing for the future.

There are 153 parish and town councils in Nottinghamshire. Everton, Gringley on the Hill and Misterton join the five that have already been awarded Quality status. Of the 10,000 parish and town councils in the UK, Everton, Gringley on the Hill and Misterton are added to just 289 councils that have Quality status.

Housing Needs Survey

You'll shortly receive your questionnaire. This is a very important exercise for the Parish. When completed, please place your questionnaire in one of the ballot boxes situated in the Post Office and the Blue Bell Inn.

Gringley Wharf

The community archaeology weekend, although dogged by wet weather, was very successful, interesting and enjoyable, and thanks go out to everyone who took part. Because of the wet weather and time constraints, it wasn't possible to complete the archaeology, and the County Council Archaeological Team are to return with heavier equipment later in the summer.

The County Council Environment Department is preparing a concept plan for suggested improvements to the site. Once that's received, consultation will take place with nearby residents prior to a village consultation event. We'd like to stress that these improvements will be funded by grant-aid.

Detention Centre Site

Having gone through a flurry of activity earlier in the year, things are quiet at the moment. However, talks are in progress between Bassetlaw Planning

Department and the Home Office agents, and a meeting with them is expected shortly.

The questionnaire exercise, in which we seek to establish residents' views as to the requirements of a new community centre, is in full swing. The Rural Community Council is to analyse the questionnaires for a small fee.

The Idle Bank

It was recently pointed out by Lovedon Estates that there is no public footpath along the Idle bank. This is an extremely important area for nesting birds, and the Estates have stressed the importance they place on wildlife protection.

The Village Beacon

We're currently waiting to hear from the owners of Beacon Hill with details of the possible costs involved in relocating the village beacon to Beacon Hill.

Cemetery

We've carried out some necessary shrub thinning work.

Website

It's been suggested to us that residents want to see more information about the Parish Council's financial affairs. With that in mind we've published our latest audited accounts and current budget on the website. Go to Parish Council and then Published Documents.

Best Kept Village Competition

We'd like to thank everyone who helped to get the village ready for judging this year, and it's a pity we haven't made it through to the final round. However, we plan to enter the competition again next year, in an effort to win back the trophy.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in the autumn, but it's always easy to contact us. You can use the contact details below, and we have a 15-minute public discussion period at the start of Parish Council meetings. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Beacon magazine. You can also read minutes of meetings, etc. on our web site: www.gringleyvillage.org.uk We've discontinued Councillors' bi-monthly surgeries because hardly anyone attended them.

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Newsletter Summer 2006