

## Gringley on the Hill Parish Council

Newsletter - Winter, 2006

### CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

In 2005 we won Category C (population 300 to 700) of the Best Kept Village Competition and also the Best New Entrant Award. The Category C winner's plaque is displayed at The Fairpiece, where it will stay for a year, or longer if we win again.

On 5th November Mr. John Mann, MP formally unveiled the plaque, with other dignitaries present. A good number of villagers turned out for the occasion, which just missed a downpour by minutes!

After the unveiling we enjoyed a superb buffet at the Blue Bell, prepared by Mr. & Mrs. Baxter and staff and arranged and donated by two anonymous benefactors. All villagers were invited to attend.

After last year's success, we intend to retain our title this year, which will involve a lot of hard work. This year we will be up against Everton, who will provide tough opposition. Furthermore, Oxton will want to regain their title from us, and there are a lot of other seasoned campaigners. It's up to us. There are three elements which the judges will be looking at:

#### *Domestic*

Homes, gardens, outbuildings, hedges, verges, etc.

#### *Community Facilities*

Bus shelters, bus stops, litter bins, public seats, telephone kiosks, playing fields, green spaces, natural features, village halls, churches and churchyards, notice boards and advertisements, public footpaths, roads, etc.

#### *Commercial*

Shops, public houses, farm buildings, farmyards, etc. There are also bonus marks for Special Community Effort.

The main thing the judges will be looking for is a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, weed-infested pavements, untidy gardens, etc. We are hoping that individuals and organisations will help us to do well and win prizes.

Why bother? Your council tax has contributed to the Parish Council's efforts to make Gringley an attractive parish, but the Parish Council can only do so much. Pride in our village helps to foster community spirit, reduce crime and vandalism, improve health, and gives a sense of well-being - and improves the value

of properties. The Parish Council will be doing its bit and will highlight any 'hot spots' in the village. We'll also keep you informed of progress through Beacon, the website and notice boards.

### The Village Beacon

We've decided to leave the beacon in its present location, but we're still grappling with the problem of what to do when we get a major event and need to light it – clearly it can't be lit in its present location, and there are insurance difficulties in temporarily relocating it. We thought about acquiring a second beacon and locating it on Beacon Hill, but, unfortunately, the landowners aren't prepared to give permission, although they're happy to see temporary relocations.

We'll continue debating this issue until we find an answer to the problem.

### Gringley Wharf

Following award of a grant for the proposed restoration of Gringley Wharf, David Foreman is currently researching its history and would like anyone who has any information or old photographs of the area to contact him.

The information we have so far is quite limited. In the canal's heyday, the wharf played a very important part in the life of the village, with a wide variety of goods arriving and leaving by canal. We know that two working boats were based there, one operated by John Oliver and the other by John Smith. The landlord of the public house situated on the other side of the canal, Mr. John Barrowcliffe, also delivered coal brought into the wharf by boat, to people around the village.

Perhaps there are descendants of these gentlemen still living in the area? Any help at all would be much appreciated.

### Christmas Illuminations

This time we provided our own illuminated Christmas tree. We did this because the charge proposed by the County Council was unacceptable. We will only have to pay the County Council for providing the electricity supply and connection.

### Parish Plan

Progress continues to be made, and a new seat has been installed in the Cemetery. The seat for the junction of West Wells Lane/Leys Lane has arrived and will be installed shortly. John Hargreaves is currently researching the viability of establishing a good neighbour scheme, and we may need a public meeting on that.

Work has recently taken place at the Village Well, and we'll be considering the next steps soon.

Excellent news in that Anglian Water have promised to resolve the problem of unsatisfactory water pressure in the western part of the village – and soon.

Members of the Village Hall Management Committee recently visited Dunham on Trent, Morton and Hatfield Woodhouse Village Halls, to view facilities, etc., with the intention of getting a basic idea of what we might provide in a new community building in Gringley, costings, funding, etc. John Hargreaves has now prepared a basic draft specification and is working on a village consultation document which should be ready soon. It is very important that a new community building fully reflects the needs of the community.

As regards the former detention centre site where we hope to build the new community building, the Home Office recently agreed at a meeting with Bassetlaw Planning Department to prepare costed options for sustainable development of the site. The District council proposes to meet the Parish Council soon in order to establish the community's view – hence the village consultation document.

### Last Word

Because of our recent achievements, Gringley has been featured in the winter edition of Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council's publication 'Rural Voice'. Copies are available at the post office and pubs.

The next newsletter will be out in the spring, 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 web site.

## Contact Details

### Contact Details

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