



No. 1/14 (March)



LEST WE FORGET, 1914 – 1918

In commemoration of the 'Great War' of 1914 – 1918, Leadgate Historical Society is hoping to produce a 'presentation' of the part played by the people of Leadgate and District in that war.

To this end they would welcome any contributions of information or the loan of photographs, if you can help, please contact Bill NATTRASS on 01207 509229 or Bill STOCKDALE on 01207 502678. The society would expect any items loaned to be returned within 24 hours.



AN EYESORE TO BE REMOVED:

For some time now the land adjacent to what used to be Pont Institute and last used by Lamplias has been an eyesore, now, at long last, it is to be improved – Gleeson Development, a firm from Yorkshire have been given the go-ahead to build 11 two-bedroom semis, 47 three-bedroom semis, 14 three-bedroom detached and four four-bedroom detached homes on the site.

On Thursday, 6th March, 2014, as a result of permission being granted, a 'cutting of the first sod' took place. The 'cutting' was done by Councillor Watts STELLING, also present were Councillor Alan SHIELD, two officials from Gleeson Developments and two residents from Pont Bungalows.



ANOTHER DOGGIE COMPLAINT:

Once again I have been asked if I can remind pet owners about animals fouling not only our footpath but also our playing fields and open spaces. People are complaining not only about this but about the fact some owners allow their animals to foul outside residents homes, in one instance a resident, who has CCTV installed has been able to ascertain who the owner of the animal, a dog, was. It isn't very pleasant when you leave your home and find dog dirt and sometimes horse manure outside your gate. We all know it isn't all owners but to those who don't pick up after their animals, can I please ask you to start doing it. We as human beings wouldn't dream of not flushing the toilet after use, animals don't have our intelligence and can't think for themselves, so let us do it for them and in the process help to clean up our streets and open spaces.



PARTNERSHIP NEWS:

This month's meeting was held on Wednesday, 19th March, 2014 and the Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Rosemary MANN, informed everyone that the Chairperson, Miss Linda PEARS, had had her operation (she was having her second knee joint replaced) and the meeting wishes Linda a speedy recovery. After the formal business was concluded, the meeting was informed Derwentside Area Action Partnership did not intend to hold its 'It's UP2U' project this year as it was felt by them, smaller projects were left behind, instead, starting in April they intend having a scheme whereby small grants will be allocated. The minimum amount to be applied for will be £500. The meeting felt the Partnership could apply for a grant to pay for the installation of electrics at 'The Gap Site' in Front Street where a living Christmas tree had been planted but had to be removed as a result of it losing its top, if the grant was awarded our village would have its own Christmas tree. The meeting was also informed the Editor of the Newsletter, Brenda SURTEES, had applied for a grant to continue its publication..



COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

VILLA REAL BRIDGE: Plans to remove the current bridge structure and replace it with a through road are scheduled to commence in June, 2014. Initial preparatory work (removal of trees/shrubs) has already started. Councillors SHIELD and STELLING are closely monitoring the developments and liaising with DCC Directors and Senior Officers, to ensure the project's completion. Residents' concerns regarding the possible speeding of through traffic has been acknowledged, appropriate and most suitable traffic calming measures are to be considered. The bridge span itself is expected to be taken down in September, the embankments are to be graded and work is hopefully to be completed by Christmas.

HIGHWAYS: Improvements to footpaths and roads throughout Leadgate are being progressed with DCC Highways/Direct Services – this will be an ongoing project acknowledging and actioning residents reported requests.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: Councillors SHIELD and STELLING 's plans to improve all community buildings within the village (which residents and charity organisations use on a regular basis) are ongoing.

Community Centre - all improvements have been completed within the agreed budget.

Bowling Club - a new open plan metal fence, a refurbished footpath (surrounding the Club's green) have already been installed, a new footpath leading to the club entrance is scheduled for installation during early Springtime, 2014.

Cricket Club - a new roof and refurbished kitchen and toilets have been completed within budget (the work was undertaken by local tradesmen)

Scout Hut - internal refurbishments (toilets, kitchen, secure external doors etc.) are to be considered.

BRADLEY OPEN CAST: A new public enquiry is scheduled for October, 2014 (following the decision by a High Court Judge in London to uphold the appeal lodged by UK Coal) Councillor SHIELD and STELLING are liaising with DCC Planning Officers, local objectors and opposition groups to develop a comprehensive and sound defence to convince the new Independent Planning Inspector that all the previous decisions (rejecting UK Coal's application) were the lawful and morally correct justification to refuse the desecration of our local environment.

ENERGY CONSERVATION (STREET LIGHTING): Plans to implement energy saving initiatives (switching off certain street lights in rural areas only) are being proposed by DCC Highways. In the Leadgate area, a section of street lights in Pont Lane (between Pont Head Estate and Bradley Cottages) is currently under consideration.

LEADGATE INFANTS' SCHOOL: The structure of the School Governors is being considered to increase the number of community representatives, expressions of interest can be made directly to the School Head, **Mrs. Lyn BLACKLOCK, tel. 01207 503656.** Concerns have been raised regarding the high levels of speeding traffic at or near the school entrances. Police and wardens are to be involved in monitoring the implementation of appropriate enforcement action before a child is injured/killed. It appears that parents are causing most of the problems.



POLICE REPORT:

The PACT Priority for Leadgate at the moment is anti-social behaviour at the Methodist Church and the top of Tyne Avenue. Anti-climb paint has been applied to the flat roof of the Church and warning signs to this effect have been placed on the external walls – a group of five local youths were spoken to and their parents have/will be informed. The police are now aware of the problems being experienced at West Street School and also those of the 'Lollipop Man' in Front Street.

As a result of 'Operation Whitehall' a man from the Consett area was stopped in his vehicle and as a result of his language and actions, he was arrested and charged. A known local male has been charged and is going to court after racially abusing a member of staff in a shop in Leadgate.

On Thursday, 23rd January, 2014, following reports of a firearms incident, officers were called to an address in Dunelm Walk. Armed Response Units were immediately dispatched to the area, six properties in the Leadgate, Medomsley, Shotley Bridge and Chopwell areas were cordoned off and the B.6310 road between Shotley Bridge and Medomsley Crossroads was also closed. Seven properties were searched by armed police and specialist search teams, a property in Elm Terrace was later discounted from the investigation. A search conducted on Saturday, 25th January in the Medomsley area, resulted in the recovery of a firearm. Seven people, six men and one woman, were arrested for firearms offences, of which two remain in custody awaiting trial for firearms offences, the remaining five are on police bail pending further enquiries.

Inspector Keith WARDLE, Consett Neighbourhood Inspector comment: **“Three Armed Response Units were deployed following reports of a firearm. The situation was dealt very quickly in a co-ordinated and controlled way with the assistance of colleagues from Northumbria Police. We tried to keep disruption to the public to a minimum: no members of the community were put at risk”.** No firearms were discharged.

On 28th February, 2014 in Leadgate, Police, together with other agencies, took part in ‘Operation Golden Glow’. This operation was in response to concerns raised by the community as part of ‘Opportunity Knocks’ carried out in December, 2013. As a result of this operation, 60 vehicles were stopped: one vehicle was found to be using ‘red diesel’, the driver was issued with an on the spot £535 fine as well as being issued with a Cannabis Warning for possession of a small amount: three drivers were issued with Waste Carrier ‘producers’: seven people are being investigated for benefit fraud: one driver was issued with a ‘producer’ for his driving documents and a driver was given a notice regarding vehicle defects. This operation was held as a result of community information and those stopped appreciated the multiagency response to address the issues raised.



EXIT LEADGATE GLEEMEN:

Leadgate Gleemen Male Voice Choir was founded in a house in Leadgate in the early 1940s by George GRIFFITHS and its original purpose was to raise funds to provide comforts for our Forces. Over the years they have given numerous concerts: attracted national celebrities to our district: made broadcasts and represented us in Top Town concerts.

Their conductor since 1981 has been Pat BOUSTEAD, who has been associated with the choir, as a soloist, since childhood. Sadly, as a result of falling numbers, the choir is to close down after their annual concert on 12th April, 2014. The choir no doubt will be greatly missed.



‘ALL ABOUT ME’

‘All About Me’ is back and will be holding sporting activities on the Eden Park (the field next to the Community Centre) on Tuesday, 15th, Wednesday, 16th and Thursday, 17th April through their partner ‘Keep Kids Active’. North East Dance will be holding sessions in the Community Centre on the morning of Wednesday, 16th and Thursday, 17th. They will be back during the summer half term and holding activities on 21st, 22nd and 23rd May. These events are for 7 – 11 year olds and start at 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. for the morning sessions and 1 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. for the afternoon sessions. A parent or guardian has to drop the child/children off and sign them in. **REMEMBER** to provide them with plenty to drink and if they are staying for both sessions, provide them with a packed lunch.



RECENT TRANSFORMATION

The ‘Paper Shop’ in Watling Street has recently had a transformation. They are still selling newspapers but now also sell greetings cards, gifts, haberdashery, knitting yarns, stationery and households goods. They are trying to sell items that previously couldn’t be bought in Leadgate, e.g. mugs, clocks, teddies, jewellery and much more. In addition to popping in for your newspaper you can pop in for tea, coffee, sugar and other household items. The new opening times are as follows: Monday – Friday: 8am-1pm: 2pm-5pm: Saturday: 8am – 2pm: Sunday and Bank Holidays – closed. Why not call and see for yourself?



SORRY, NO CROSSWORD THIS MONTH, TOO MUCH TO REPORT



ST. IVES '100 CLUB' MONTHLY DRAW:

The winning numbers for January, February and March, 2014 are as follows:

January: 1st prize No. 119: 2nd prize No. 68

February: 1st prize No. 45: 2nd prize No. 92: March: 1st prize No. 60: 2nd prize No. 5



DIARY FOR APRIL, 2014



2nd Leadgate and District Carers' meeting at 1.30 p.m. in the Community Centre



5th Leadgate Methodist Church's coffee morning 10 a.m. in the Church Hall



7th St. Ives' Church bingo at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre



9th Redwell Hills Nursing Home has a coffee morning today at 10.30 a.m. and in the afternoon, at 2 p.m., they have an Easter Fayre

10th Leadgate and District Historical Society meeting at 2 p.m. in Leadgate Methodist Church, presentation 'Upstairs-Downstairs at Cragside' by Jeff HUGHES



10th & 11th Salvation Army's Easter Musical 'Mary Magdalene' at 7.30 p.m., admission by programme, obtainable from Clare THOMPSON, tel. 01207 504054



12th Two coffee mornings today:
Pont & Bradley at 10 a.m. in Bradley Chapel Hall
Salvation Army's at 10.30 a.m. in the Army Hall



14th Salvation Army's Ladies' Fellowship meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Army Hall



16th Leadgate and District Carers' meeting at 1.30 p.m. in the Community Centre



16th Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting at 6 p.m. in the Community Centre, followed at 7 p.m. by Leadgate Area Partnership's meeting



18th **PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO 'MESSY CHURCH' TODAY AS IT IS 'GOOD FRIDAY'**



19th St. Ives' Church's coffee morning at 10.15 a.m. in Community Centre



21st Leadgate Women's Institute meeting at 2 p.m. in the Community Centre

26th Salvation Army's coffee morning at 10.30 a.m. in the Army Hall



28th St. Ives' Church bingo at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre



Bingo sessions are held every Monday and Saturday in the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. The Centre's Legacy Gym is open every morning except Sunday between 9 am – 12 noon and Monday to Friday between 5 pm – 7 pm



If you have any items you wish to have published or advertised, any comments you wish to make, please let us know before 16th April, 2014, the contact names and telephone numbers are as follows:
Brenda SURTEES, 01207 507506 or Jean HUGHES, 01207 506326.

If you wish to contact either of our County Councillors their details are as follows:
Councillor Watts STELLING – 01207 501674, mobile 07500125328:
Councillor Alan SHIELD – 01207 562080, mobile 07500125327