

April/May 2008

Scarning Newsletter

Parish Council

Have you ever wondered what your Parish Council is here to do ? The Parish Council consists of nine unpaid members who all live in Scarning and represent the village on various matters. It is effectively the third tier of local government, the other two being Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council.

Each year, the Parish Council receives a sum of money from Breckland District Council, known as the precept. The precept is apportioned by the Parish Council on behalf of its parishioners.

The Parish Council has many functions, but broadly speaking is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the children's play areas on the Water Meadows, the installation of play equipment on the Village Playing Field, the maintenance of the roadside verges and hedges in some parts of the parish, the provision of dog and litter bins, the maintenance of some street lights, the production and distribution of the village newsletter, the maintenance of the church clock and the repair and upkeep of bus shelters in the parish.

The Parish Council has over a number of years provided grants to the Village Hall Trust & Estate for the renovation and refurbishment of the Village Hall, the Playing Field Committee for the upkeep of the Village Playing Field and Scarning Church toward the maintenance of the church building. More recently, it has purchased play equipment for the two play areas on the Water Meadows. It also installed new paths to make the area more accessible, for which a grant was obtained from Awards for All.

Over the past five financial years, the Parish Council has apportioned grants in the following manner:-

Scarning Church

Upkeep of the churchyard Village Hall Trust & Estate Playing Field  
Committee Water Meadows Play Area

£23,000 £ 6,400 £26,500 £ 6,950 £29,120

At its meeting in March this year, the Parish Council allocated £5,000 to the Village Hall Trust & Estate towards improving vehicular access to the front of the Hall, £5,000 to the Playing Field Committee, £5,000 towards various projects on Scarning Water Meadows, £1,700 towards the upkeep of the closed part of the churchyard and £2,800 to Scarning Church towards necessary repairs to the church's guttering.

It should be remembered that all the bodies to which funds are allocated are run by volunteers, who give up their own time to improving and maintaining facilities in the village.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. The Parish Council discusses a wide variety of issues which affect the community and takes decisions on all Planning Applications - although Breckland District Council makes the final decision taking the Parish Council's views into account.

If you are interested in the village why not come along to one of our meetings. The next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which will be held on 21st April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

#### A Website for Scarning

The Parish Council is considering setting up its own website. As councillors act on behalf of its parishioners, we would like to hear from you as to what you would like to see on it.

Please send your submissions to the Parish Clerk at Oakleigh House, Shipdham Lane, Scarning, NR19 2LB.

#### St. Peter & St. Paul's Church Flower Festival

##### The Story of Jesus

Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May

10 am to 5pm

There will be coffee, tea and light lunches in the Village Hall, as well as a variety of stalls selling cakes, artwork, plants etc.

If you would like to help, please contact Corinne Steward on 693286.

#### Arcadian Society

The next meeting of the Arcadian Society will be in the Village Hall on April 26 at 2.30pm. A talk will be given by Jean Smith on The Clothes of Dr Jessop's Parishioners.

All are welcome to attend. The entry fee is £ 1 for members, £2 for non-members.

#### Village Allotments

In response to a piece in the last edition of the newsletter five families have chosen to take up plots on the village allotments. As part of a

concerted effort to provide allotments for those wishing to grow their own vegetables, two existing allotments have been subdivided into six plots. There is currently one vacant allotment. If you would like more information, please telephone 687492.

#### Women's Institute

The next meeting of the Women's Institute will be in the Village Hall on April 30 at 7.30pm when a talk will be given by Patrick Thompson on Catering for the Royal Way. For more details about forthcoming events, please contact Rosemary Hutson on 687538.

#### The Art Groups

Last year ended with a Christmas Party at which, for the first time, members of the two different groups combined. The whole event was made the more successful by the fact that members staged various amateur 'turns.' At the party we were pleased to have both Alan Glister, representing the Village Hall Trust & Estate and Janet Money of Dereham Cancer Care committee. Through members fund raising efforts a cheque for £162 was presented to Janet.

During this term various programmes are planned. We have started with charcoal and pencil and are now into exercises in ink and diluted ink washes. Studies have been done on rock formations and dressed stonework to Norman and medieval doorways and windows. Other exercises are to be Still Life subjects and it is hoped to have some study into Impressionist and Abstract exercises.

The Newsletter is published by Scarning Parish Council Every effort will be made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print but no liability will be accepted for losses caused by inaccurate information.