



P A R I S H C O U N C I L

LEONARD STANLEY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Those Present:- Councillors Wendy Bevan, Chris Connett, Sue Davies, Ruairidh Gaunt, Jackie Graydon, Phil Herbert, Dianne Targett, Jess Taylor, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, District Cllr Ray Apperley, Mary Herbert, Robert Hall (Cricket Club), David Pearson (Wine Circle), Tim Smith (Twinning Association), Heather and David Longworth (Footpath Wardens), Dave Camm (Welfare Trust), David Newton (Enterprise Group), Jill Hutchings (W.I.), Dorothy Clarke (Monday Club), Tess Wheeler (FOLS), Lisa Crossley (FOLS) and Maggi Mukasa (Village Fair and Spring Litter Pick).

Apologies have been received County Cllr Leslie Williams, PCSO Liz Ward, Mrs M Cunningham (Art Group), Mr A Cave (Cricket Club), Mrs B Lusty (Monday Club) and Mr S Watson (Web Master).

1. Previous Minutes: The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 12th May 2009, were accepted as a true record at the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2009.

2. Report on the activities of the Parish Council :-

a) Cllr Phil Herbert Chairperson -

Thank you all for attending. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting we have recruited new councillors Jackie Graydon and Dianne Targett and more recently Sue Davies has replaced the vacancy created by Mair Forder. Mair left the village to be nearer her daughter and grandson in Yorkshire.

It is good to know that there are still so many volunteers out there running so many village activities, of various ages from the Toddlers Group to the Monday Club.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Village Maintenance, Playing Field Maintenance, Litter Picking and Insurance. With what is left we try to assist various groups. The Council has recently carried out improvements to the Pavilion including new floors, doors and showers. Some of these improvements were needed following the promotion of the Football Club to the Northern Senior League. The Parish Council were also delighted to be able to contribute to the celebrations of the Twinning Association 40th Anniversary.

b) Reports from the following Councillors (see appendix 1):

- Dist Cllr N Studdert-Kennedy
- Dist Cllr R Apperley
- Cllr R Gaunt (Youth)
- Cllr Targett – (Village Hall Management Committee)

3.Reports from Village Organisations – Reports were received from the following organisations, (see Appendix 2).

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| 1. Mrs M Cunningham | Art Group |
| 2. Mr A Cave | Cricket Club (read out by Robert Hall) |
| 3. Mr D Newton | Enterprise Group |
| 4. Mr D Longworth | Footpath Warden |
| 5. Mrs T Wheeler | Friends of Leonard Stanley School |
| 6. Mrs D Clarke | Leonard Stanley News |
| 7. Mrs B Lusty | Monday Club (read out by Dorothy Clark) |
| 8. Mrs M Mukasa | Spring Litter Pick |
| 9. Mr T Smith | Twinning Association |
| 10. Mrs M Mukasa | Village Fair |
| 11. Mr S Watson | Village Website |
| 12. Mr D Camm | Welfare Trust |
| 13. Mr D Pearson | Wine Circle |
| 14. Mrs J Hutchings | Women’s Institute |

4.Issues Raised by attendees –

The Chair opened the floor to questions:

- a. Mr Dave Camm thanked Cllr Targett for her report but wanted the Parish Council to take a more active role in the activities of the Village Hall Management Committee. He stated that as the Parish Council are the Custodial Trustees wasn't it a shame that no one was present from the Parish Council at the VHMC's last fund raising event. He requested that the Parish Council should pay for the insurance costs of the Village Hall.
Mr David Newton stated as a former Chair of the VHMC, he could confirm that the mechanism for funding the running of the Village Hall was not working and a more viable way of fund raising was required.
Cllr Herbert stated that when the Village Hall and Social Club were first founded the idea was that the Social Club would provide the necessary funds for the Village Hall. However the arrangement between the Social Club and Village Hall has changed in recent years. The Parish Council had previously sought advice from Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, reference this issue.
Cllr Herbert stated that the Parish Council had always supported the VHMC and have already indicated to the VHMC that the Council are prepared to assist with the costs of improving the heating facilities. The Parish Council instructed the clerk to put the issue on June's Agenda.
- b. Mr Dave Camm wanted to know why the minutes since 1992 have not been lodged at the records office. The clerk stated that she has been scanning the records with the intention of making them available for everyone on the website, but as this is such a time consuming job, she will now lodge the minutes as requested. She further confirmed that the Council hold true minute records from 1992 until present.
- c. Cllr Graydon expressed her delight in this her first Annual Parish Meeting, on knowing how much is done and in such good spirit.

The meeting finished with a general thank you to Mary Herbert for providing everyone with refreshments at the meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9 pm.

SIGNED

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Reports from the following Councillors:

1) Cllr. Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

In my experience it is rare for an outcome that is satisfactory to all parties involved to be achieved. Inevitably the best laid plans hit a problem of some description particularly where freedom of choice is involved. I am therefore doubly pleased to be able to report that not only have I had the pleasure of witnessing such an event locally but can also claim to have had some part in it. Just before last Christmas I was contacted by a local couple imminently expecting their first born. Their housing was rather damp and causing concern. Fortunately I was able to speak to the Housing Team and with their support the couple were re housed just in time for the new arrival. If only everything else would work as well as this did.

Those of you who have considered the District Council's Core Housing Strategy will be well aware of the perceived need for more housing. A considerable amount of development is already proposed within The Stanleys including the new School. The Grange Farm Site in Leonard Stanley and Stanley Mill are two more that spring to mind. Deacons Close and the "Woolaway" houses in Leonard Stanley are two other sites where work is proposed to take place although the latter is thought to be unlikely for up to 5 years. Further proposals cannot be ruled out but as we are all aware to propose does not guarantee completion.

We are fortunate that our local Post Office changed sites within the village rather than closed altogether. Those directly involved are to be congratulated on achieving a practical solution. Supporting our local services is the best way to keep them in the villages.

I am well aware that the state of some of our roads has given rise to considerable and justifiable comment. There is a certain poetic justice however in that the County Councillor responsible for Highways visited the Developers' Exhibition at Stanley Mill recently and in so doing experienced at first hand the state of the road by the Ebley By-pass traffic lights on his journey to the exhibition. Many of you will have already noticed that some patching was being done on 30th March.

You may remember the successful trial of re-cycling which had to be curtailed last year because funding has been exhausted. Representatives from The Stanleys, my fellow District Councillor Ray Apperley and I visited a Food Recycling Plant run by Westminster Council in an effort to try to find ways of perhaps saving the re-cycling project. The system that we were shown is known as a "Rocket" It sounds extremely fast and it is in composting terms. In fact it is a continuous digesting process which lasts several days. The end result can be spread on the land as compost. The process enables vegetables and plants to be grown in the centre of town from re-cycled material. The system would require a considerable initial capital investment and would then have to be managed on a continuous basis. For information a diagram is available from the clerk.

Amongst other matters that have required attention District Council officers have been asked to deal with Dogs which barked for most of the night and a footpath affected by Farm-yard overspill. To date, both cases have been addressed and appear to have ceased to be a major cause of frustration. This year the measuring point in my garden, which amongst others, has been used by the District Council look for emissions from Berkeley Power Station for many years, has been removed having shown only natural emissions the entire time. This is good news and leaves me with one less thing to mow around.

It has been my privilege to be involved in the large regeneration projects that the District Council has supported over the last ten years. The opening of Sainsbury's Supermarket in

Dursley completes another regeneration project involving the District Council. Closer to home; the largest of all, the Canal Project, is under way.

My colleague, Cllr Ray Apperley, has also addressed many local issues some of which are mentioned in his report. Between us we have responded to requests for assistance right across the Stanleys Ward as well as duties related to the whole district. We can only hope that our efforts have met with your approval.

Cllr. Nigel Studdert-Kennedy.
District Councillors for the Stanley. 29th March 2010

P.S. **RE-CYCLING.** The possibility of providing a re-cycling service based upon the successful trials in the Stanleys has **not** been abandoned. In order for any such scheme to succeed it has to service the entire district. To take full advantage of the benefits gained from major contracts it may be necessary to co-operate with other local authorities to provide this type of service. The financial implications have to be fully explored and until this has been completed no proposal for such a service can be made.

HOUSING

You may be aware that the Minchinhampton site redevelopment has now gained momentum and has become a live project. The other two Woolaways sites, Leonard Stanley & Top of Town, have yet to be addressed. Both these sites at survey had a longer structural life expectation and have therefore been deemed next projects to address. The Council has a Woolaways Team that focuses on the issues. The Team are aware of the need to commence work on establishing the up to date condition of the properties and intend to undertake this work shortly. It is intended to send a communication to the residents over the summer and hold a meeting in early 2011

N.S-K. 27th April 2010

2) Cllr. Ray Apperley

The year 2009/2010 has been another year of success and disappointments over what I, as one of your local Councillors, has been able to achieve.

An appeal against an enforcement notice served on the owner of Amateur Radio Mast that was causing interference to resident's televisions and telephones in Middle Yard was defeated at least for the time being. It is noted that alterations to the boundary wall where this mast was in use, may give rise to another planning application in the near future.

We had a case of dangerous dogs biting a young person in Leonard Stanley that rightly caused great concern with Parishioners, some of who were so worried and they were afraid to walk by the location where these dogs were on guard duty.

A successful Police prosecution followed, with new safeguards being laid down by the Magistrates. However I recognise that many people still have concerns and I ask them to take a note of any breaches of the new conditions they find and either report them to myself, my colleague Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, or the Police.

Sadly Shirley Milliner of Brimley passed away. Shirley lived in Brimley with a dog and a cat. She was very disabled with arthritis and osteoporosis and I tried to keep an active eye on her, as she did not want to go into sheltered accommodation. I know others in the village assisted with her weekly shopping expeditions. It is always sad when one of our villagers passes away

Nigel and I were very pleased to be invited to the Beaches a short while ago when some flowers were presented to a lady that had lived at the Beaches for thirty years and she was 90 years of age. We drank a toast to her with bubbly obtained by the Warden. This is an SDC record length of stay for a person living in sheltered housing.

I objected as requested by Kings Stanley Parish Council, against the "Marville" Planning Application. However the Development Control Committee granted permission for this development, which is near St George's Avenue. It is considered by many to be out of character with other dwellings in the area. This Application whilst approved, is currently held up whilst discussions continue over affordable housing.

With the help of the Kings Stanley Parish Clerk I was able to help in removal of tapes erected over Common Land between Middleyard and Selsley, which prevented the County Council from carrying out its grass cutting activities properly

I think probably the most disappointment was the cancellation of the Food Recycling Project, particularly following the very successful trail and the National Awards received.

Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, myself. and others visited a Food Recycling Plant run by Westminster Council in an effort to try to find ways of saving the project

Leonard Stanley Parish Council has a new Chairman as Mair Forder left the District to move up North. I am sure many Parishioners will miss her and would like to thank her for the work she undertook on their behalf. I am pleased to work again with Phil Herbert.

This winters weather was particularly bad and I hope not to many Villagers had their wheels and tyres damaged in the potholes left after it. I trust Parishioners found the County Council sympathetic if they made claims.

Councillors will know that I am Stroud's Representative on the Gloucestershire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee that played a large part in saving from closure Stroud Maternity Unit. I was again this year re-elected as Vice Chair of this important Committee.

Unfortunately we were unable to save Weavers Croft, the Elderly Persons Mental Health Treatment Unit. However I recently organised a visit for interested people to see the new Treatment Unit at Charlton Lane Cheltenham. This new facility is nearing completion. All were very impressed with this new facility and the care taken to get things right. The NHS will have spent over £8 million in developing this facility.

In addition this Committee has been allocated the task of scrutinising Adult Social Care this year and this will probably double the work we as Committee Members have to undertake.

This additional responsibility has meant the Committee has had to change its name to the Gloucestershire Health, Care & Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one of its first tasks is to look at Gloucestershire's Dementia Strategy

Having recently stopped the closure of 200 beds at Gloucester Royal and Cheltenham General Hospitals until proper public consultation has taken place, gives some idea of the work this Committee undertakes. It is important that as many people as possible make their views known during the public consultation period which will take place during April and May. Look out for details in the press, on posters and local radio etc.

Finally as a Member of the Rotary Club of Stonehouse I visited parts the area disguised as Father Christmas on the Carol Float. The overall collection this year was again over £12,000, which is remarkable considering the state of the economy. I would like to thank all the

Parishioners who contributed towards this total. Rotarians give their time for free and nothing is taken out of money collected for administration costs etc.

Any person reading my report who is interested in finding out more about becoming a Rotarian should contact me or look on the website [www. Stonehouserotary.org.uk](http://www.Stonehouserotary.org.uk)

Cllr. Ray Apperley,
March 2010.

3) Cllr Ruairidh Gaunt – Youth

There is no youth group at the moment and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. The Scout group goes from strength to strength with all three areas, scouts, cubs and beavers with healthy numbers. The groups finances are very strong.

4) Cllr Dianne Targett on behalf of Lisa Walters – Village Hall Management Committee:

Since the 2009 AGM Daphne Collins has held the position of Chairperson, David Turner continues to act as Treasurer and Lisa Walters is the new Secretary. The majority of organisations who use the Village Hall do send representatives to the meetings, however a few of the newer organisations have yet to arrange for someone to attend. Four representatives have resigned over the course of the year, including our Vice-Chair, whom we hope to replace at our next A.G.M.

Relationships with the Social club are continuing well, Gary Walker is still their Chairman, and he is also the Village Hall Caretaker. Maureen Kerry continues to work as the Bookings Secretary. This arrangement is working very well.

The Village Hall licencing has been rectified and the entire hall is now covered, this has meant that the Social Club has been able to open the bar for Village Hall fundraising events, something which has benefited both.

Bookings continue to be steady, including the very successful Mini-Market and more recently Yoga and Ballet, for both adults and children.

A new Cooker has been installed in the Kitchen funded by the Village Hall Committee and the Luncheon Club. Other maintenance issues have been resolved or are in the pipeline.

As in 2009 our finances still remain limited, with heating and electricity costs soaring, creating a big drain on our resources. We would like to install a new heating system throughout the hall but we need to raise a large amount of money for this to occur. A small group of trustees have created a fundraising group and several successful and well-supported events have been held. We are desperate for funding to enable us to maintain and to continually improve the hall for everyone in the Village to use and enjoy.

Many thanks to our Trustee Members for their continued support.

Appendix 2

1) **Art Group** – Report by Marjorie Cunningham

Our workshop continues to thrive with a full membership, it has become such a welcoming group and we all look forward to our painting sessions.

Unfortunately we cannot always engage a visiting Artist as their charges are becoming too high.

We now encourage some of our more experienced Artists to experiment and run a morning's workshop. The art world has so much to offer at present and so many different techniques, so we have fun trying out the different media.

Our Thursday mornings are a rare treat for us to forget our worries for a while enjoy each other's company and share our talents.

The hall is always well kept and immaculate thanks to the caretaker.

We always welcome visitors to our sessions, vacancies do arise due to unforeseen circumstances.

Enquiries to 01453 822692. Marjorie Cunningham.

2) **Cricket Club** – Report by Alan Cave

The 2009 season for Leonard Stanley Cricket Club was the most successful for many years, claiming a top 3 finish in the Stroud League Premier Division and more Sunday cricket and tour matches played to add to a busier fixture list.

The club website www.leonardstanleycc.co.uk proves to be a valuable source of club information and the club in general continues to be efficiently run by a small but dedicated band of members.

The main problem area, as in previous seasons is the lack of players and fulfilling all the scheduled fixtures for 2010 will be a challenge, but the struggle goes on and I am sure cricket in Leonard Stanley will survive and grow if the will and desire is there.

3) **Enterprise Group** – Report by David Newton

The Enterprise Group is planning projects for the future albeit in an informal way. We are looking into ways of re-introducing a waste recycling scheme into the village and have just been discussing with a funder the possibility of establishing a community orchard into the village.

We organize the food markets which will re-start in June, and the Apple Day each autumn.

4) **Friend of Leonard Stanley School (FOLS)** – Report by Tess Wheeler

FOLS are a team of parents who do what we can to support the school by raising money. The current committee consists of:

Chair:	Tess Wheeler
Vice-chair:	Kerry Dunne
Treasurer:	Sue Greening
Vice Treasure:	Jo Cooke
Secretary:	Lisa Crossley

We meet about 6-8 weeks at the school to organise a variety of fund raising events.

This year we have hosted these events : the annual Firework Display, the Christmas Fair, a Quiz Night, a sponsored swim at Stratford Park, school disco's and a couple of pamper evenings. In addition to these events, we have also raised money through an Easter egg raffle and a directory which anyone can advertise in. These are free and given out at any of our functions.

Events still to happen this year includes school summer fair 19th June and hopefully 4 stalls at the Village Fair. We also hope to have a social evening sometime in July / Aug

But what is the money spent on?

Each year we always pay for:

Children's Christmas presents and party - £250

Coaches to the pantomime - £950

PGL coaches - £500

Year 6 hold a leaver's play and we supply a buffet- £250.00

Year 6 have a leavers ceremony at the church, we supply drinks and nibbles refreshments- £100

Year 6 Dictionaries - £120.00

Donations to classes - £400.00

Then each year we try to raise money for what is needed or requested by the school. This year we are concentrating on getting our funds back up, as last year we had a lot of expenses.

However, another important role of FOLs is to maintain and run the school's swimming pool. The children use the pool daily after the May half term (weather permitting) and we offer family membership to the community after school or during the summer holidays. It is a wonderful facility to have. Running costs have also increased due to the introduction of new microbiology testing that checks the bacterial content of the water. Each test costs £100 and needs to be done monthly whilst the pool is open. This year we have to paint the fence and surrounds of the pool, add a non slip surface to the steps and mend a few leaks. However all of this means we will have the safe use of the school pool for future years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council again for their donation of £1000 to go towards the liner last year, we were very grateful.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their support and hard work during the year, but must mention Sue Greening for all her hard work and financial understanding, Wendy Stanley for organizing the Sponsored Swim and business directory and Lisa Crossley, she's a great secretary.

5) Footpaths - Report by David Longworth

Leonard Stanley has joined forces with Kings Stanley for the Walkers Are Welcome Status. David and Heather Longworth have been appointed as the Footpath Wardens for Leonard Stanley.

Stroud Valleys have recently replaced some styles with Kissing Gates.

6) Leonard Stanley News – Report by Dorothy Clarke

The Leonard Stanley News goes from strength to strength and is still as popular as ever with the village residents. Recently, with the many Bank Holidays at this time of the year, it has been missed as the regular bi-weekly delivery has turned into gaps of 3 weeks. However, this has meant that the distributors and myself have had a few breaks, not to mention Tom William's unpredictable photo-copier.

Tim Vale keeps an eye on the expense for us and the annual subscription remained the same this year. We must express our thanks to all our distributors without whom this valuable asset to the village would cease to exist. Thanks are also due to the ladies who valiantly the approx. 450 copies into groups for distribution to the distributors. Altogether the Leonard Stanley News is a valuable asset within the village. (Between ourselves, Kings Stanley residents have asked if we could include them)!

7) Monday Club – Report by Beat Lusty

The year started with the very unusual weather which kept many members at home so, as is our practice, we enlist local people to entertain us and we were happy to enjoy an interesting afternoon when Ann and Tim Vale told us about their visit to Japan to attend a Japanese Wedding. This was followed by David Lemon with his talk 'Never too old for Adventures'. Reg Porter recalled Gloucestershire during the 50's and 60's with his talk entitled 'Memories of Teas with Hovis during the 1950's'. We had another musical afternoon with Graham and Mike and then Patrick Howell recalled his 'Journey of a Lifetime'. As you can see from this, we have been successful in have some most interesting and varied speakers, thanks to the Parish Council's very welcome donation of £150 in December. This has been a great help with the spiraling costs of speakers and their expenses.

In between time we enjoyed the Snow White Pantomime during the snow period at the Hippodrome Bristol (those of us who could brave the iced pavements) and recently had a trip, again to the Hippodrome, to see Snow White, this time on ice! The last speaker was someone we all know and love, Mike Merrett, talking about his '40 years as a Paramedic', followed by the usual Easter competition/display.

Recently, to help our finances we have started a Monthly Raffle, and this has given us a small income to help with expenses.

With outings, entertainment, and a wide variety of speakers, all in all this has been a good year for the Monday club which, we hope will increase in membership and continue to provide an enjoyable Monday Afternoon along with the tea and biscuits.

Our finances are kept under control by Daphne Collins, and a small committee meet on an 'as and when required' basis. In all, another successful year for the Leonard Stanley Monday Club.

8) Spring Litter Pick – Report by Maggi Mukasa

On a very damp and cool morning this year some hardy volunteers turned up to the village hall to help at the annual litter pick.

It is my aim to scour and clear as many roads in the village as possible but this is always completely dependent on how many turn up. Ideally we need at least 30 people who can then be sent out as mini teams to work together. It is not much fun standing in a ditch clearing cigarette boxes, McDonalds packaging, empty cans of beer and the like but if you have someone else with you can have a chat and a laugh. I have to confess I always leave Brockley Road till last as it always seems to be in pristine condition.

As usual this year we found the same disgraceful collection of rubbish on the roads and it thanks to the volunteers that we collected over 25 sacks of rubbish plus bits of furniture, old rusting roads signs and the like.

Everybody is kitted out with high vis jackets, gloves and given sacks and litter picker sticks to assist with this job.

We have to inform Stroud Council, follow a risk assessment and take out a Public Liability form. Luckily we do this under the auspices of the Parish Council so there is no cost involved.

This year the volunteers were so enthusiastic we have arranged to do another one during the Autumn when the summer foliage had died back.

We must not forget, that in addition to this the Parish Council pay Irena to litter pick on a regular basis and our thanks go also to her.

There is always room for more volunteers and everybody will be made welcome. Refreshments are provided afterwards and if anybody wishes they can attend the Stroud district council Annual awards evening for all the litter pickers. Having done it once I don't recommend it as it is long drawn out and you are served dry stale sandwiches afterwards!!

9) Twinning Association – Report by Tim Smith

During the last 12 months, the Twinning Committee have been planning & fund raising to enable us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Twinning with Dozule in an appropriate manner.

When we visited Dozule in May 2009 the dates for visits both ways in 2010 were confirmed.

Since then we have held successful fund raising events by taking part in the Village Fair, a Quiz night and a truly fantastic result from our Dinner/ auction in March. These events, together with the generosity of the Parish Council, Stroud District Council, Rover Coaches and the support of those who donated items for the auction and raffles and spent their money, have enabled the hard working committee to host 32 French visitors, including the Mayoress of Dozule, subsidise an excellent meal at Wycliffe College and provide a free trip to the St. Fagan's natural history museum at Cardiff.

Dozule presented us with a fantastic gift in the form of a weather vane which will be displayed in the right place so that everyone can see it. The ideal site would be on the roof of the Village Hall, but permission from the Management Committee needs to be obtained first.

We have also been presented with a full set of Len Ortzen's books by Horace Harris which are housed here in the Hall. As you know, Len and his wife Ann, were the originators of the Twinning and it was felt that the books should be kept in the Village rather than given to a Library in Stonehouse or Stroud. They will be available for everyone to read for a small charge, and any monies raised will go into Twinning funds.

Our celebrations are not over yet, as we shall be visiting Dozule in October and hope that as many people who took part last weekend, as well as those that were unable to, will be able to join us then.

I have already given the Clerk a copy of the menu card as it contains the names of the French and English founders and also the current Committees. I hope this will be kept for future reference.

10) Village Fair – Report by Maggi Mukasa

We had another fantastic fair in 2009 and can't believe how lucky we were with the weather.

This was the 5th year the current committee has run the fair and we are ever grateful for the overwhelming support we receive from the whole village.

Our aim is to provide a social day out for the village and offer the opportunity for all groups to fund raise. As we were in recession we decided to make the fair a free event this year. We gave away programmes and kept the stall cost to a minimum. We need to make a minimum of £1000 to cover costs for the following year. We make most of our money from the raffle and are really lucky to be given so many worthwhile prizes to offer.

I am sure you will agree that it is a good opportunity for the entire village to be together and it is so heart warming to see many people from the village on the playing field.

Last year we invested in a good quality marquee and some electrical equipment and although expensive, it will, in the long run save us money.

The produce tent was particularly popular and we are already aware of a healthy interest in toppling Ruairidh Gaunt of his winning streak with home grown vegetables!!

As usual the WI came up trumps with fantastic home made cakes etc and charged a minimum rate for everything. In addition the school provided our country dancers, the church held a craft fair and we were also ably assisted by Brian and Liz McNab-Jones, Noel Baker, The White Hart, Local Scouts, Dave Pullen and numerous volunteers who sold raffle tickets and gave away programmes.

With so much support we really cannot go wrong and I am sure you will agree that the fair is the one thing that brings everybody together.

None of this however, could not happen without the dedication and enthusiasm of our superb committee who are already heavily involved in planning this years' event. They are Ann and Mark McTaggart, Harvey and Bobbie Ireland, Nicky Gaunt and Pat Hearne.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 17th July and if you want to join us we will be on the field from 6.30 in the morning!!

11) Village Website – Report by Steve Watson

Steve Watson manages the web site on behalf of the village. The cost of hosting with 1&1 (around £100 per year) is met by the Parish Council.

The website aims to be an electronic focus for Leonard Stanley by:

- Providing information on the history and geography of the village
- Providing news, reviews and information
- Offering a web presence to village organisations so they may advertise, inform and entertain
- Publishing Parish Council documents
- Publishing the fortnightly "Leonard Stanley News" (Thanks to Dorothy Holland and her team)
- Offering a forum for debate (Little used)

The use of the website is increasing slowly with around 4,500 hits per year i.e. around 375 individuals viewing the site per month. The Leonard Stanley Website Hit Counter is currently at 22,769.

Annual Hit Rate – Unique Hits

2009 - 4680
2008 - 4200
2007 - 4000

The Parish Plan indicated that half the households in the village have a computer and Internet access. Trend analysis predicts that as technology develops and businesses and government make greater use of the medium, this ratio will increase to near saturation. The Leonard Stanley website however is only ever going to be as good as the information provided by local people and everyone is asked to review, update and inject some fun into the village web space.

12) Welfare Trust – Report by Dave Camm

The Welfare Trust and its subsidiary The Rishton Education Foundation has developed mainly from a sum of £200-00 left in her will in 1791 by Eleanor Rishton to be held in trust by the then incumbent to administer for the benefit of poor widows and to educate the poor children of the parish.

In 1838 the £200 was used to purchase the land in Gipsy Lane and to be held in trust by the incumbent. The proceeds from letting this land was put to same use as before but more importantly by issuing land to the poor residents of the village they then became partly self efficient and thus removed from “to quote” the burden upon the rates. It is said but I have been unable to confirm as yet, that, one condition of each allotment holder was that they had to have at least one pig upon their plot to provide meat for the winter.

I give this brief history because of the misconception held by a few that the land was given to the village (whatever that might mean), it is held in trust by currently five trustees whose responsibility is to administer the assets and they in turn are accountable to the Charity Commission.

In the year 2009-10 the trustees were able to negotiate a satisfactory end to a very long running dispute regarding the tenancy of some of its land. As a result of this agreement the trustees have full control over all its land. The land not used for allotments is now let out to three tenants on a grass keep basis so that no permanent tenancy is created again.

There are 68 allotment holders and we have 97 plots, still not enough as we have a waiting list of 13 and no sign of anyone relinquishing their plot at the moment.

The Rishton Education Foundation were able to make 4 grants to Leonard Stanley pupils in tertiary education totalling £450.00.

13) Wine Circle – Report by David Pearson

The Wine Circle which meets in the evening on the last Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall continues to enjoy a healthy membership. A wide variety of interesting and informative speakers ranging from An Evening of Audio Visual Sequences to the extreme Marathon de Sables Sahara kept the group well entertained during the past year. The popular summer outing was a trip on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire railway to the Cheltenham Race Course appreciating the scenic countryside and including a tasty fish and chip supper. The annual programme is invariably well received and often includes a number of local topics.

14) Women's Institute – Report by Jill Hutchings

During this year we have maintained a membership of 30 plus 3 joint members, and have enjoyed some very good speakers, as well as indulging in activities outside the monthly meetings.

Celia Hargrave, who spoke about running the Himalayan 100 and Susan Marshfield make welcome returns to our W.I., and we have also heard about 'Nature in Art', the History of Tea, the work of a prison tutor, the history of the Bristol Royal Infirmary and most recently a talk from a gentleman who came from Jamaica more than 50 years ago, and who spoke about his experiences, both good and bad, of working and living in this country. We also had short talks from one of our own members about her colourful life with her husband and after our AGM a talk about bees, especially to fit in with last year's resolution. In social time we have had a mixture of stalls (books, jams and preserves and Bring and Buy) and displays (favourite poems, and old sewing equipment). Two competitions were for 4 small cakes (we ate the results with our coffee) and a favourite flower from our gardens.

We continue to enjoy monthly pub lunches and weekly craft afternoons, and in the autumn even managed to fit in 3 short rambles. Trips to Elgar's birth place and up to Upton House and Chipping Norton were successful. To mark the 90th anniversary of GFWI we held a lovely garden party, complete with our best frocks and hats, on a beautiful afternoon in June. Members have attended the Annual Council Meeting, new speakers' morning and the Christmas Concert, where Aled Jones was the special guest. A small group went to the Craft Exhibition at Tewkesbury Abbey, and we were very happy to come 3rd in the Echo Country Quiz. The £25 prize money helped to fund our Christmas party. One of our members was thrilled to meet the Duchess of Cornwall at Highgrove, though it was rather disappointing that she couldn't wear the hat she had purchased for the occasion.

Thanks to the generosity of members and other friends we managed to send 28 boxes to Operation Christmas Child. Our members also rallied round splendidly to provide teas at the Village Fete, to organise one of the Lent Lunches, with the proceeds going to the Willow Trust, and to man some stalls at the Annual Plant Sale, with the

profit going to the Air Ambulance Service. We also have an ongoing commitment to edit and organise the distribution of the fortnightly village news sheet.

In the near future we shall be providing refreshments at the talk on Stanley Spencer's time in the village (the tickets are going fast for this event), and also for the Open Gardens afternoon in June, so we shall not exactly be idle.