



LEONARD STANLEY

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Those Present:- Councillors Wendy Bevan, Chris Connett, Graham Davies, Sue Davies, Ruairidh Gaunt, Phil Herbert, Jess Taylor, District Cllr Nigel Studdert- Kennedy, District Cllr Ray Apperley, D Longworth (Footpath Warden), C Storkey, D Camm (Welfare Trust), M Kerry (Village Hall Management Committee), J Warner (Stanley Spencer Plaque Appeal), S Ashenford (Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum), M Cunningham (Art Group) and M Gadd (Twinning Association)

Apologies have been received Cllr Dianne Targett, PCSO Liz Ward, Mrs B Lusty (Monday Club), Dorothy Clark (Newsletter), Jill Hutchings (Womens Institute), Maggi Mukasa (Spring Litter Pick and Village Fair) and D Merrett (Twinning Association).

1. Previous Minutes: The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 4th May 2010, were accepted as a true record at the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 8th June 2010.

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

a) Cllr Phil Herbert Chairperson -

- 1) No major alterations. Jackie Graydon resigned and Graham Davies was co-opted in her place.
- 2) There was a small increase in this years' precept, usual expenditure on playing field, village maintenance, insurances and clerks salary and pension.
- 3) Special Awards: £3000 to Village Hall for Central Heating and floor polishing. £1000 to the Twinning Association to help it celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Other grants were awarded to the CAB, Monday Club and St Swithun's PCC.
- 4) The Parish Council have pledged funding for two new kissing gates to replace old styles, this has been arranged by David and Heath Longworth with assistance from the Cotswold Wardens.
- 5) The Social Club are still not making meaningful contributions to VHMC, the Parish Council only has one trustee on the VHMC. It would be advantageous if the VHMC could attract some younger trustees to join them.
- 6) The Parish Plan has now been adopted. The Plan has identified several areas for action and the Parish Council would love the village to get involved in taking on these issues.
- 7) A thanks to the Councillors for their support and giving of their time to keep the village running smoothly.

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

- Dist Cllr N Studdert-Kennedy
- Dist Cllr R Apperley
- Cllr Targett – Highways
- Cllr S Davies – Village Hall
- Cllr R Gaunt – Youth
- Cllr W Bevan – Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch

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. PCSO Liz Ward | Community Policing |
| 3. Mr D & Mrs H Longworth | Footpath Warden |
| 4. Mrs D Clarke | Leonard Stanley News |
| 5. Mrs B Lusty | Monday Club |
| 6. Mrs M Mukasa | Spring Litter Pick & Village Fair |
| 7. Sandra Ashenford | Stanley Spencer Project |
| 8. Jeremy Warner | Stanley Spencer Blue Plaque Appeal |
| 9. M Gadd & D Merrett | Twinning Association |
| 10. Maureen Kerry | Village Hall Management Committee |
| 11. Mr D Camm | Welfare Trust |
| 12. Mrs J Hutchings | Womens Institute |

4.Issues Raised by attendees –

The Chair opened the floor to questions:

- Mr D Camm thanked the Parish Council for depositing the Minutes Books at Gloucestershire Archives.
- Mr D Camm questioned whether the Parish Council should be insuring the Village Hall and not the VHMC, as is the current arrangement. He expressed concern that the VHMC did not have an Insurable Interest, and was worried that if the building burnt down then the Insurance Company would refuse to pay. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council and VHMC amended the arrangement, as per advice given from GAPTC. The Chair stated that the Parish Council would seek further clarification.

CLERK

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

SIGNED

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Appendix 1

District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STANLEYS' PARISH COUNCILS 2011.

Development

A considerable amount of development is proceeding within The Stanleys including the new School which is due to open soon and The Grange Farm Site in Leonard Stanley. Stanley Mill and Deacons Close already have planning permission and a further application has been submitted for a development in Middleyard. It is perhaps worth mentioning the positive progress being made on "Brookside", Severn Waters, Leonard Stanley which is a welcome to sight.

Roads.

Considerable resurfacing of some of our local roads has gone some way to undoing the damage caused by the severe weather last winter. However there remains a much more to do and we look forward to the day when potholes are the exception and not the rule.

Rail.

The re-inclusion of the re-doubling of the line between Kemble and Swindon is good news and a welcome relief to all those people who worked hard over a number of years to promote this project.

Canal

The project is moving forward. Despite some set-backs such as, for example, privately owned water pipes which cross and obstruct the canal and have to be re-routed the owners of which have to be traced before work can proceed; good progress is being made. The new Bridge over the Canal in Stroud is expected to be open in June. Work on three further bridges, Ocean at Stonehouse, Chestnut at Stroud and Lodgemoor at Stroud are at the design stage of the contract to design and build. Construction work is expected to commence in June or July. The Inland Waterways Association plan to hold their Trail-Boat Festival at Marling School over the first weekend in June 2012 which I understand the is also the official Diamond Jubilee Weekend. It is expected to attract a considerable number of boats and a large number of visitors. It is hoped that the Ebley to Wallbridge section of the canal will have been completed by then although this is dependent upon the full co-operation of the school which is currently presenting some difficulty and delaying the letting of the contract for the work. The re-building of Griffin Mill Lock by the Cotswold Canal Trust is underway and an application for outline planning permission has been made for Brimscombe Port.

Re-cycling

Some of you may have seen on television recently the latest application for the mechanical sorting of recyclable materials. This system points the way towards a wider range of material and what is termed co-mingling of materials at the point of collection thus removing the responsibility for sorting by the householder. If this system were to be used then food waste could be collected every week together with general waste one week and the dry recyclable materials the next. Discussions regarding Stroud District Council's proposals are continuing with the County Council. Once these have been finalised and agreed we can move forward. It is hoped that a full recycling service will be established. In this event the Council would like to utilise the Advisory Group which proved so successful during the original trials.

General Reminders

Many of you will already be aware of the following:-

1. That Council Tax has been frozen for this year at the same level as last year,
2. That the Consultation on the Councils' Core Housing Strategy is continuing.
3. That Buses Passes are now issued by The County Council.

2010/2011 ANNUAL REPORT TO KINGS STANLEY & LEONARD STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

PREPARED BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR RAY APPERLEY.

I have prepared this year's report as a joint report as many of the items herein affect both Parish Councils.

PLANNING

I have undertaken site /panel /exhibitions regarding the following sites during the year. Grange Fields, Vicarage Fields, Stanley Mill and Middle Yard. It has been my longstanding view that I should in general support the views of the Parish Council as they are closer to the needs of their parishes than I am.

In December 2010 a proposal was made by the SDC to change the Scheme of Delegation for planning applications. This change has in my opinion made it more difficult for Parish Councils to have their views taken into account. Both I and my colleague Cllr. Nigel Studdert-Kennedy voted against this proposal from the Conservative Administration. The vote was lost by 2 votes.

COUNTY DUTIES.

As Vice Chair of the Gloucestershire Health, Community & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee much of the work I do is for the County as a whole. However much also affects people living in Stroud District.

In health terms I worked scrutinising project "Utopia" which was introduced at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with a view to avoiding unnecessary in patient treatment. As part of this scrutiny I have had conversations with the Chair of Stroud's General Practitioners Committee who said the project was not operating very successfully and I presented a written statement to the Committee on his behalf. Whilst Utopia is still in existence it is my view that this will soon cease to operate.

My Committee finally agreed to the closure of 47 beds following various trials which took place up until September 2010 in order to ascertain effects on patients. The effect of this was that the threatened closure of 200 beds, were reduced by 153.

As part of the bed closure review it was made clear to the Senior Management of GHNHSFT that we would not allow them to make any change publicly announced in the future until we had carried out a full review.

This message seems now to be well understood by the Management and they came to our Committee meeting in February of this year asking if they could work with us on post restructuring proposals which would reduce posts allowing for savings to be made.

Discussions are proceeding in this area.

The results of a study of the waste issues at Wigmore Farm sites, was published in May. This 3 year scientific study conducted by the Environment Agency at our request showed that there have been no detrimental effects to the health of people living in the Bishops Cleaves area. Following meetings with the PCT last year the Dentistry Sub Committee on which I sat, produced a new NHS Dentist in Stroud.

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES.

Looking at data published by the County it was clear that there was something wrong with Stroud's expenditure of external care since the District had the largest overspend in the County. I had meetings with the Local Managers calling for an explanation and a statement of what effect this would have on future expenditure in the light of the large cuts coming. It was found that there was no set payment structure for the District as in other areas, that more visits we made by pairs of Care Workers rather than by one and there was a lack of Intermediate care beds. This accounted for much of the overspend.

These areas are being addressed and a new combined Committee consisting of members of the County Social Care Scrutiny and my own Committee has been set up to monitor the effects of spending cuts on services provided and the effects on service users. It should be noted that service users are being reassessed and I expect this will cause considerable

problems as some assistance will be withdrawn and other assistance cut. I have attended one meeting of the combined Committee.

The County has also removed the upper limit to what care home users could be expected to pay for their places. This could mean probable rent increases of up to £80 per week for families supporting their elderly relations.

While little effect on adults with learning difficulties in the Stroud District, the announcement of the possible closure of the Dursley Training Unit caused me concern and I added my name to the protests and had several meetings with various people in Dursley including 2 local County Councillors. It is now possible that an alternative meeting place has been found where the adults using the DTU can meet socially in Cam.

I still remain a member of the Rotary Club of Stonehouse which with the help of many donations from people living in the Stanleys' allowed us to raise around £25,000 for charity, much of it local, in the last Rotary year.

Finally I hope to continue my work for the people of the Stanley's during the coming year.

Cllr. Raymond Apperley 3rd May 2011.

Highways Report by Cllr D Targett

I have had good communications with John Kay from Highways. (Although this does not always mean that everything gets repaired, I always receive a response to an email).

- Potholes

I have been in regular contact with John about the potholes around Leonard Stanley – some have been repaired, and some haven't.

In an email I sent to John in mid-April to request that potholes in 'The Street' be investigated, I received the following response, which I thought might be of interest:

"All the potholes were recently inspected that you highlighted in your previous email, but very few of the locations met our current intervention levels.

I understand fully why you are bringing this to my attention though and I do have scheme programmed for carriageway maintenance. As yet there are no confirmed dates but in 2011/12 I intend to carry out structural patching works and follow this with a micro asphalt surface treatment in 2012/13. This combined approach over the next two weeks will remove all the damaged sections and provide a new sealed surface extending the lifetime of the current road construction.

- Marsh Lane

A group of residents have been campaigning for improvements to the top end of Marsh Lane following the floods in 2007, which left the lane severely eroded. Highways have now agreed to work with the group and apply for a 'Big Community Grant', in which Highways would pay £4000, The Big Community Grant would pay £4000, and the balance would be met by their fund raising efforts. Kings Stanley Parish Council has agreed to act as sponsors, as the majority of the 'lane' falls within their boundaries.

Contractor quotations are being sought, and fundraising is ongoing. In the interim, Highways have carried out some small repairs to the very worst ruts.

- Grit

During previous winters, Highways have advised us that they have supplied grit to the best of their ability. There is ongoing discussions regarding more roads being gritted in the village, and Highways have informed us that this will be reconsidered during the summer months. Requests have been made for damaged bins to be replaced, which will be done before the next winter.

Highways have been invited to the next Parish.

Thank you.

Village Hall – by Cllr S Davies

This year has been a busy time for the Village Hall. In August the Central Heating system was updated, the floor sanded and re-varnished and then the hall redecorated. We were fortunate that we were awarded a grant of £5000 from Glos Community Fund and a refund from S.T.W.A of £4586 following a review of our payments. We also had a donation of £3000 from the Parish Council and generous donations from other organisations and individuals which all helped with the cost of refurbishment.

The fund raising team have had a successful year and have raised about £1000 which is a wonderful effort and greatly appreciated. Bookings have increased and rent fees have been slightly increased. We must regulate the income to ensure future fund to meet the cost of maintenance etc. The Social club was set up to provide help in the financing of the Hall but the last payment made was in 2007 and this year they have again been unable to help with the upkeep.

The insurance for the Village Hall is Anfar Insce, and the documents are held with the treasurer Graham Searle.

Youth Report by Cllr R Gaunt

There is not much to report as there is no longer a Youth Club.

Scouts Group - The Beavers and Cubs have a waiting list, the Scouts are also nearly full. They have been busy with camps including one in January. The parents are on a rota system which works well. They received a generous donation of £400 from the Safari Supper.

Appendix 2 Reports from village Organisations

Leonard Stanley Art Workshop Annual Report for 2011

Our workshop continues to thrive with a full membership of 20. We always welcome newcomers who are eager to try their hand at a new skill. It is a very friendly club with a mixture of beginners and some more talented artist' always prepared to give tuition and encouragement to newcomer. We still meet every Thursday morning's at 9.30 - 12pm.

Though we have a prepared term's programme of work members can work on their own projects if they wish to.

Last year we had one visiting demonstrating Artist, visiting Artist's are becoming very expensive so it was decided to only have a morning demo.

Our excellent treasurer keeps us solvent, we don't need to make a profit. Our aim is to give pleasure to all our member's and encourage them to improve their skills. We are like a family and enjoy a coffee break when we chat and have fun.

Our Exhibition this year will be on June 4th 10 am till 4pm, paintings will be on sale, light refreshments. Proceeds will go to the village hall fund. The new improvements to the hall were very welcome especially the heating, the hall is always immaculate is appreciated.

Marjorie Cunningham (Chair)

PCSO Liz Ward

Since 1st January 2011, the police have recorded 26 crimes in the Leonard Stanley area. Unfortunately, this is an increase compared with the same period in 2010, but the figures remain low compared with other parts of the County. Much of this increase can be attributed to an overnight spate of criminal damage to parked cars in Brimley at the beginning of April. Of the crimes recorded so far this year, only two were burglaries; one of a business premise and one of a garden shed.

Leonard Stanley remains a very safe place to live and work, and your local police and community support officers are committed to keeping it that way.

Our current priority at Stonehouse Police Station is the broad aim of Crime Prevention. We are in the process of delivering crime prevention advice at various locations across our area. For example, we ran a crime prevention stand at Blooms Garden Centre in April, at which we were joined by a Trading Standards officer. Another example is our delivering 'bogus caller' leaflets in areas of sheltered housing in Stonehouse. Computer memory sticks which contain advice on internet safety are also being distributed to teenagers.

Locally to your village, on 21st May 2011, PCSO Liz Ward is organising a bicycle coding event in Kings Stanley on the 21/5/11 between 1pm & 4pm, and will be giving crime prevention advice to those that come along.

Footpath Wardens' Annual Report by Dave and Heather Longworth

2010/11 has been a year of both highs and lows as regards the Leonard Stanley footpath network. We have ended the year on a high with the installation of six new kissing gates.

Unfortunately, not all landowners appreciate kissing gates as we discovered when one was installed on the path from Marsh Lane to Woodside Lane. A compromise has been reached, but not everyone is happy with the solution.

The gravel track (Bluebell Lane) between Marsh and Woodside Lanes has been improved and we hope the culvert problem has been solved.

As for the new kissing gates that are presently being installed, two have been bought by the Parish Council and installed in Gypsy Lane, the Ramblers Association has supplied three and the Stroud Valleys Project one. The gates have been organised by the Gloucestershire County Council Footpaths Department and installed free of charge by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. They have had a difficult task in places. We are grateful to all the landowners who have allowed this to happen.

We hope these new gates will further improve walking for all in the village and justify our Walkers are Welcome status which we jointly hold with Kings Stanley. This has been renewed for another year.

Heather & Dave Longworth

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL RE: LEONARD STANLEY NEWS May 3rd 2011
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, and the fact that it has been missed, we have kept going with the help of all our volunteers. In spite of Tom Williams' photocopier, we have aimed, and succeeded in keeping to schedule.

Tim Vale still keeps an eye on the expenses 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 count the approx. 450 (plus) copies into groups for distribution to the distributors. The News distribution organisation has also been used to circulate pamphlets for the school and other items of interest. Altogether the Leonard Stanley News is a valuable asset within the village. Other villages are still envious of our success.

Dorothy Clarke

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEONARD STANLEY
MONDAY CLUB TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 3rd 2011

The Leonard Stanley Monday Club has enjoyed a very successful year with regular meetings on Monday afternoons except for when Bank Holidays prevent our getting together.

We have been able to afford some excellent speakers and entertainers during this past year thanks to the gift from the Parish Council and also funds raised by ourselves by holding a monthly raffle with a prize donated. In between time we fill our afternoon with a game of Bingo or Hoy, or a quiz and this provides a very sociable afternoon.

The ability to afford good speakers and first-class entertainers, every other week, has resulted in a small increase in membership, attracting people from Kings Stanley to join us. We also hold a Bring & Buy sale on occasions which also helps to raise money.

We are happy to continue our very happy relationship with the children at the school by joining them for lunch once a term and also providing the first year with an afternoon's entertainment during November. This has replaced the visit of Punch & Judy as some children didn't enjoy this and, also, it was becoming very expensive.

This year we didn't go to the pantomime in Bristol, instead we enjoyed an evening with the Sound of Music. This was enjoyed by members and considered to be a refreshing change. We had our usual outing to Weston super Mare during July and enjoyed the breath of sea air.

Our Christmas Dinner was again enjoyed at Forest Green but, sadly, the room was very crowded and this made it somewhat uncomfortable.

We recently celebrated the Royal Wedding with a buffet lunch and members dressed in outfits fit for them to be guests at the Abbey. We held this prior to the event due to the Bank Holidays, and our members called it a great success..

Our membership is now 43 regular members, and we welcome those from Kings Stanley who have helped to swell our numbers.

In all, we have enjoyed a very successful year – long may we continue.

Beat Lusty
3rd May 2011

Litter Report for Leonard Stanley APM 2011 by Maggi Mukasa

I speak as a raw beginner to this new position.

For the last few years I have been happy enough to coordinate the annual litter pick where lots of brilliant volunteers turn up to walk around the entire village and clear up the litter in one fell swoop.

When I saw the advertisement for the position in the Newsletter I offered to carry out the task as in my husband's words I am "obsessed" with litter.

Now I have carried out the tasks for a mere 4 weeks I have been shocked at the amount of litter I have collected.

The two areas which need regular attention are Bath Road and the playing fields. I have made these two areas a weekly target and in addition to this I have organised a rota so that the remaining roads are covered on a less regular basis.

I also realise that an awful lot of people pick up litter while they are out and about and thanks must go to everyone who shows such good community spirit.

Finally a huge thanks must go to Irena Litton who has carried out this task for many years. She has inconspicuously removed tons of rubbish over the years and will be a hard act to follow.

Maggi Mukasa May 2011

Village Fair report for Leonard Stanley APM May 2011

2010 turned out to be another successful year for the Annual Summer Fair.

We were blessed again with lovely weather but as a precaution we always keep some money aside as a wet weather contingency, as losses would be inevitable.

The objective of the fair is to provide a community day for the village with something for everyone. It is not a fundraising event from our point of view but it is a vehicle for local charities and organisations to raise funds for themselves through stalls and activities. We rely on the raffle money which provides enough to cover the hire of larger attractions marquees etc.

Once again the villagers were fantastic and supported with their help and enthusiasm.

The Parish Council very kindly donated funds which paid towards the hideous insurance costs. Our Health and Safety folder gets bigger every year, and at times this aspect of the fair is more daunting than everything else put together.

We have now settled into a regular routine with the fair, as we feel what we do fits well with the village, and there is a big enough selection of things to do. What is so nice is that so many attend and all day you see people bumping into each other and having a chat. It is a social occasion for many, and we feel it is an important day in the year for the entire village.

Of course we are always open to new ideas especially for small children. There is nobody on the committee with young children and this is perhaps an area we could improve.

The main events such as the Dog Show, Cheese Race, Children's races, Tug of War and exhibitions of dancers were very popular.

Refreshments were provided by the WI who did a sterling service and I know got down to their last teabag!

Lots of village organisations had stalls which helped to raise vital funds and also create a lovely atmosphere.

The competitive spirit in the Produce tent was both amazing and very humorous. We have some extremely competitive allotment holders who last year brought wheelbarrow loads as an entry.

Although it costs more we aim to distribute produce entry forms along with the Newsletter nearer the time as we would like to encourage more entries.

This year we will continue with our Scarecrow competition. We have booked a new event where you can quite literally walk on water in huge plastic bubbles. We are hoping this will appeal to lots of people although we have been told there is a 13 stone limit so we are still working out how we can tactfully manage this!!

My thanks go to everybody who helps. On the day itself we are so grateful to those who just pitch up and work. The biggest thanks must go to the committee Nicky Gaunt, Pat Hearne, Harvey and Bobbie Ireland, Ann and Mark McTaggart and Paul Mukasa who put in hours of unseen work before, during and after the event.

Maggi Mukasa 2011

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
Stanley's Story
Off the Wall, On the Move outreach project update

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum is now closed for redevelopment. We are *Building for a New Future* and are *off the wall and on the move*, delivering an off-site programme of events and activities in Cheltenham and further afield.

Stanley's Story is part of this programme, inspired by our painting *Village Life or Village Gossip* by Stanley Spencer.

In 1939 Stanley joined his friends George and Daphne Charlton on a painting holiday staying at the White Hart Inn in Leonard Stanley. During his stay he observed village characters and village life and filled several sketch books with drawings. Two of these drawings went on to become this famous oil painting.

Aspects of the project:

We will be working closely with the Museum in the Park, Stroud, the Everyman Theatre, the village of Leonard Stanley, Prema arts centre and local schools.

Events at Museum in the Park, Stroud:

- The original painting *Village Life* will be on show from 24 May to 5 June.
- *Stanley's Story* event on Wednesday 25 March at 6.00 when the Stonehouse Junior Youth Theatre in association with the Everyman will bring the painting to life in a drama performance in the park. Also a talk about the painting at 7.00.
- A display of work by children from Leonard Stanley Primary school inspired by the painting.
- Portraits in Pencil workshops for children with artist Hilary Baker on Tuesday 31 May.
- Creative writing workshops for children on Thursday 2 June.

Events in Leonard Stanley:

The annual Big Draw is a national event which encourages everyone to draw in some way and it seems appropriate to hold a Big Draw event in the village.

- **Stanley's Big Draw** will take place on Saturday 15 October as part of the established Apple Day event. Artists from Prema arts centre will work with village groups, Leonard Stanley Primary School and Maidenhill School in the weeks leading up to the Big Draw and resulting work will be displayed around the village.
- Professional actors from the Everyman Theatre will create a promenade performance based on characters in the painting and perform around the village during the Big Draw event.
- Artist in residence – a visual artist will take up residency in the village working with local residents and groups to record village life today. Timing to be confirmed.

For further information about any of these events or if you wish to be involved in any way please contact Faye Little tel 01242 775702 email faye.little@cheltenham.gov.uk

Stanley Spencer Blue Plaque Appeal Report May 2011 for LSPC AGM

The appeal was started at the beginning of March 2011 with both support and a donation from Leonard Stanley Parish Council. Since then, local organisations and individuals with an interest in both Stanley Spencer and our local heritage have been approached.

To date, the appeal has reached a total of £515. This represents 57% of the £900 target reached. Of this, 68% has come from organisations and 32% from individual donors, the largest donation of £200 coming from The Friends of The Spencer Gallery, Cookham.

If the target is reached by end of July, then the unveiling ceremony would be scheduled for Sat 15th October the village Apple Day and also when Cheltenham Art Gallery is putting on its Stanley Spencer Big Draw event.

Jeremy Warner

Leonard Stanley Twinning Association 2011

Report for the Leonard Stanley Parish Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday 3rd May.

Firstly please accept our chairpersons apologies for not being able to attend tonight.

In 2011 it was our 40th Anniversary, and a very busy year it was with fundraising and accepting our friends from Dozule in May and a return journey when we visited them in October. We feel very proud to have achieved 40 years twinning and in that time we have made some very special friends, an extended family.

We needed to do fundraising to help us with all the expense of our anniversary year. So in January we had a quiz, in March we had a meal and auction, which were both enjoyed by all that attended. It is an added bonus that we raise funds but also that our main aim is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun which has been so each time.

In the time up to the May visit we received donations which were very much appreciated, so we would like to thank the Parish Council personally for their help and encouragement.

At October half term we made our way to Dozule for 5 days and received a wonderful welcome yet again, a lovely time out and about with our families and a coach journey to Mont. St. Michel.

Three of the committee went over in December to the Christmas market in Dozule taking Christmas puddings again, many were ordered so had to take extra, 18 in all. They have already ordered them for this December again as they are very popular.

At our AGM this year there were many changes, Tim Smith stepped down from chairman and took on Treasurer, Dolores Merrett who was the Treasurer has filled Tims shoes. Mike Merrett is still on the committee but Michael Gadd has filled Vice Chairman. Louise Wilson was replaced by Caroline Holmes as secretary, and the committee is still the same.

Thank you for your support. Dolores Merrett and Michael Gadd.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT FOR 2011 - Maureen Kerry (acting Secretary)

Since the last Parish Council A.G.M. the Village Hall has been decorated, new central heating and the floor re-done, thanks to volunteers. To this end I'm asking for permission on behalf of the Hall to use the Playing Fields for a Car Boot Sale, one Saturday afternoon (in conjunction with the Cricket Club) as the Hall car park is not big enough and needed for the public attending to park. Our main source of revenue comes from bookings. These continue steady, mainly made up from children's parties. We have also had some generous donations, from the Arctic Supper and from Dave Camm, grateful thanks to his son-in-law who undertook the decorating, which looks great. Our main problem is lack of space as unfortunately, a lot of bookings cannot be accommodated. We receive a monthly rent from the Social Club, but other monies as yet, have not been forthcoming as they are struggling through lack of members. Our A.G.M. takes place on Wednesday 15th June at 8.00p.m. Please support this as the Hall is there for all the VILLAGERS and we do not want to lose it.

Leonard Stanley Welfare Trust & Rishton Education Foundation Report 2011 by Dave Camm

The year 2010 was a very successful year as were able for the first time for many years able to let out all the non allotment fields on proper 11 month grass keep agreements. This practise has continued in 2011. The demand for allotments is still very strong and we now have 100 plots all occupied by 68 allotment holders. The trust is very grateful to the tenants who relinquished part of their plots this year in order that we may satisfy some of the waiting list. We have at the moment 12 names of villagers requesting plots.

The trust was able to make various grants in 2010 totalling £875-00 for 6 youngsters in tertiary education, and in addition a further £100-00 to both the PCC and VHMC to assist in the spiritual and social needs of the Village.

The trusts are administered by 5 trustees (2 Church appointees 2 Parish Council appointees and one co-opted allotment holder) and as we will be losing Sue PM in May the Church has appointed Mr. Nicholas Roberts as her replacement.

Should any villager be thinking that in the next few years they would like an allotment I can add their names to the list, similarly if any youngster is about to enter tertiary education this year please let me have their details and I will present them to the trustees meeting in September so that they can decide on its merits for financial help.

Dave Camm

Report on Leonard Stanley W.I. by Jill Hutchings

On the plus side this has been a busy and enjoyable year for our W.I. On the minus side we have less members this year, thanks to a combination of the increased subscription, increasing age and an inability to draw in younger members. We have had a very good programme of speakers. Without listing them all I will mention Rosemary Prosser talking on the joys and trials of running a B & B. She was humorous and beautifully audible thanks to her skilled use of a microphone. Similarly Patrick Howell's experience as an actor meant that he kept us riveted as he took us on a journey of a lifetime through the Panama Canal in a small boat. Since at the moment it looks as if the Cheese Rolling will become a thing of the past we enjoyed hearing about it in November, and the new year began with Jilly Baker

persuading us of the benefits, both physical and psychological of wearing a properly fitting bra. So convincing was she that a good proportion of our membership has rushed to be uplifted/shock absorbed/reduced as necessary. Recently we had an excellent evening when three ladies from the craft group of the Waterways Museum told us about the life of the narrowboat women and showed us examples of their crafts. The fact that they came dressed in the appropriate costumes, complete with the lovely bonnets typical of the time added to the atmosphere. Finally we have just had an open meeting when we heard all about life behind the scenes at the Cheltenham Race course. It was disappointing that Edward Gillespie had been called away, but his deputy did us proud – even providing bottles of wine for winners of his quiz.

As part of each meeting we aim to have a social time, and find that often the best ones are when member take part. For example we each completed the phrase 'Happiness is....' The government seems keen to measure our happiness level, and might be interested to learn that not one of us mentioned money.

We have continued to enjoy monthly pub lunches, and the craft group meets each week. In addition we have made a point of having an extra social event each month, and have so far been to see 'The King's Speech', had a session of bag-making, played whist and Scrabble and visited the Body Shop. Tow outings have been enjoyed, to Dewstow Gardens and to Basildon Park.

We had a busy summer of catering, first providing teas after the talk about Stanley Spencer, arranged by the Rotary Club, and secondly for the Open Gardens event on a very hot day in June, also arranged by Rotary. This is not to mention the annual fixture of the Village Fete teas. All this enabled us to make a useful donation to the Village Hall refurbishment fund, as well as to swell our own funds. We might not technically be allowed to raise funds for charity, but our members are ace at backing each other's efforts. So successful events have been held in aid of the Crack Cancer fund, the Diabetic Society, the Air Ambulance, and most recently a Lent lunch raised £182 for the Willow Trust. Regular collections of pennies meant that the last time the jar was opened it had £69 in it for Crack Cancer, and 26 shoe boxes of goodies were sent for Operation Christmas Child.

I'm afraid that our participation in county events is not great. Members attended the annual council meeting and the autumn county meeting, enjoyed the Christmas concert, and we were recently gratified to win the first round of the Echo Quiz, despite having to play with a team of 3. It seems to many of us that county events are pretty expensive, so for example rather than pay £11 for a croquet session we will do our own (weather permitting). And we are quite capable of organising our walks. This might seem insular, but with the ever rising cost of petrol it makes sense to keep it local.

This February saw the 10th anniversary of the W.I. taking over the organisation of the village news sheet. This fortnightly edition is the envy of plenty of other villages, and it is difficult to see how village activities would be published without it.