

## Annual Parish Meeting. 5th May 2005

Welcome and thanks to Parishioners, especially to those who regularly attend, and help us to keep up-to-date with the state and wishes of the Parish. Your information and remarks are important to us.

We were sorry to lose Cllr Derek Revere early in our year through ill health. His expertise, help with the JCH, and support to the Chairman was sorely missed – we wish him well for the future. We were sorry too to lose Cllr Patrick Cole in the last month from our Council, due to pressures of work. He has agreed that, should pressures lessen, he would be happy to renew his service. We thank him very much for his hard work over the past few years, and hope to welcome him back one day.

Thank you to all our Cllrs for all the hard work they do, especially Cllr. Mollie Groom, also our County and District Cllr, for keeping us up-to-date with information from outside the Parish.

Thanks also to those who work for us, especially Rosemary Leckie, our Parish Clerk, whose continued contributions are invaluable, and who puts in many more hours of hard work than most appreciate; also to our Groundsman, Bob Nicholas, a conscientious, helpful, and willing worker.

Thanks also to Constance Reed for all the hard work she does in producing the Parish's eagerly awaited Lydiards Magazine. She is still earnestly seeking an assistant/trainee.

Thanks to Joe Ricketts & Nigel Margetts for continuing as Trustees of the Cleobury Charity, & to Cllr Brian Baker as Trustee of the War Memorial Clock Fund, who also acts as understudy for Mr Ricketts in the maintenance of the clock.

Thanks also to the Badcott's for helping to maintain the flower beds opposite the Parish Hall, and to Midgehall Nurseries for providing such fine plants.

Thanks also to Mr Meredith, our tenant of Lydiard Plain, for looking after it so well. With the advent of government grants for the maintenance of fields, we are in the process of registering, the first step to claiming, and may be able to reduce his rental on this basis in future years.

Also to PC Alex Reid, our local 'bobby', for his help and advice – he is keen to help with the parking problems that beset our village at school start and end times, around The Butts. I know that the school, in particular the PTA & Governors, who have their own School Travel Plan, are keen to help, and we are liaising with them at present, as they have some access to funding to help alleviate the problems.

We would again ask parishioners to tell us of any concerns re planning, roads, hedges, footpaths, etc., and remind them that they can also phone the WCC helpline direct (Clarence) on 0800.232323.

Any dog fouling noticed and left behind on the Rec. Field should be advised to the Dog Wardens at NWDC, Environmental Health Dept on 01249 706111, with details & photo if possible.

We have a new chief Highway engineer, Danny Everett, who has visited several times, and already responded well to requests for work. We will chase him more regularly now he is settling in.

Our local NWDC 'Standards Committee' representative is still Cllr Geoff Yates of Lydiard Tregoz PC - he will be doing his best to ensure they keep up to scratch.

The precept for this last year was reduced by £500 to £12,000 for 2003/4, which will still allow for savings towards a new cemetery, now our JCH is completed. Income exceeded expenditure by some £2500, closely in line with the projected financial outcome, but with some variations in the figures.

Our main achievement this year has been the installation of the low level lighting on the path from Buryfields to Chestnut Springs, and we are now trying to arrange for the tarmac ramp to be reinstated.

We must also renew our thanks to Shaw F.C. and LMCC, for their help in looking after the Rec. Field & JCH, and to LMCC for the summer grass cutting, as the facility is a great asset to the Parish.

The car park has been re-lined this year, emphasising the Emergency Bay and the Disabled parking. The Clubhouse has been used by the Committees of the Parish Plan, and The Link Scheme, and for occasional use for Parish Council meetings. We hope it will be used by an increasing number of parishioners, but not, wherever possible, to the detriment of the use of our excellent Parish Hall.

The Play Area is inspected monthly by a rota of Parish Cllrs, and annually by RoSPA, but please advise any Cllr, or the Clerk, if you see anything untoward. The facilities belong to the Parish – you - yourselves - you are our eyes and ears - please help us keep it as you would wish it to be.

There are still Millennium Maps and Walking Guides for sale - contact Tom Pepperall on 770734.

Any further sale proceeds will still be used towards Parish projects, or further trees and bushes.

We are still chasing WCC to improve our roads – we are as keen as you are to see some improvement.

A significant effort this year has been the production of our Parish Plan. Many parishioners have been involved, and we would like to publicly, and especially, thank the Committee members and Working Groups who have given much of their time, and have collected and presented your thoughts and ideas. We must thank The Countryside Agency, the 'Solve' fund at Community First, & NWDC for their funding, and Community First for their help and guidance. We are now presenting the Plan to the appropriate bodies, and hope that this will help WCC and NWDC in any decisions they may make which would affect our parish. One particular aim, that of reinstating our Post Office and village shop, seems to be close to a result – please watch this space.

Our Website facility, with the kind assistance of Peter Windo, has moved on, and our new site is at [www.lydiard-millicent.org.uk](http://www.lydiard-millicent.org.uk). This has prompted us to include more information, and to be better in line with the Freedom of Information Act. We hope that parishioners will use it to check on, and contribute to, our parish efforts with comments, suggestions, and help – e.g. further work pursuing the aims of the Parish Plan, or perhaps our Parish Spring Clean-up on the morning of Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are pleased to see our Lydiards Link progressing well. They are well funded for the future, their services are much appreciated, and they are often complimented for their excellent help. They are keen to receive more calls for

help, and would also like additional volunteers - it is a very worthwhile organisation, and a very satisfying service to be part of.

We were also pleased to help our Lydiards /Purton end of the Dial-a-Ride disabled service, by supplementing a shortfall in the funding with Purton PC, when the Countryside Agency withdrew.

It is hoped that our help will enable the service to find alternative funding for 2005/6.

Mrs Groom and myself are still involved in representing our Parish at the Public Enquiries on the Swindon Borough Plan and the North Wilts District Local Plan. You can be sure that LMPC will volubly oppose those that threaten our Parish. It is so important for parishioners to let us know their feelings, and we will still need you to write to appropriate bodies from time to time, to back up our requests / objections to unwelcome proposals. Again – please watch this space.

We are still receiving 3 visits each year from the NWDC Lengthsmen team, who do small cleaning up jobs for us. We shall continue to monitor and provide suggestions for their help.

We still suffer, as do most rural parishes, from fly tipping - Greenhill, Bagbury Lane, Holborn, etc - please advise the Parish Clerk, or any Councillor, immediately if you see anyone doing this, and record the time, description and registration number if at all possible.

I have already mentioned the problems around The Butts at school times. We would again ask drivers please not to park on verges, or to block the pavements with inconsiderate, and sometimes, dangerous parking. We hope such actions will not one day result in a child being injured, or worse. The road narrowing by the Church, funded by the Safe Routes to School initiative, and which has created an increase in traffic incidences, has been reviewed by WCC, but we will still continue to press for improvements to safety, including better signage, as called for in the parish Plan.

P.C. minutes are available for inspection. Regular paper copies can be provided for £10 pa., or you can view them on our web-site, subject to a delay until approval at the following P.C. meeting.

Tom Pepperall

Chairman