

SPOTLIGHT ON ARNSIDE PARISH COUNCIL



Continuing our profile of Arnside's Parish Councillors, this edition we feature Pete McSweeney

Pete McSeeney has lived in Arnside for the past seven years. Before he made Arnside his home he had been a frequent visitor to the area having had a caravan at Holgates.

He admits being attracted to the area because of its beauty and as a keen walker and sportsman found the Arnside district just right as the perfect place to settle.

Pete is an IT Consultant and lives in the village with his wife Christine. They have two daughters who live outside the area.

He became a parish councillor in 2003 because he wanted to put something back into Arnside. "The area has given me so much over the years" he says, "and it seemed the right way to be able to contribute to the village in a positive way".

One of his responsibilities on the parish council has been to chair the Cemetery Chapel appeal and restoration. He is very excited about the prospects for the future role of the Chapel and its use as an asset for the village. "Hopefully, we can use the Chapel for a range of village activities such as being the starting point for walks, musical recitals, exhibitions and talks. The building will be the venue for meetings of the Parish Council but first and foremost it will be retained as a Cemetery Chapel."

He has also been involved in helping to get the Parish Council 'Quality Parish Status' and is delighted that this has now been achieved. It took 12 months of examination of the way the community is served by the Council to gain the recognition.

Arnside is one of only four councils in Cumbria, at present, to be awarded the status and one of 254 countrywide and when you consider that there are over

8,000 parish or town councils in the UK, you can appreciate that they are hard to come by.

What he likes about Arnside is that it is a living community with a good age range. "I hope that in the future we can continue to maintain the age balance and that we can do something more to help young people stay in the village by ensuring there are jobs and housing for them". He is also looking forward to contributing to the development and refurbishment of the children's playground area as a future Parish Council project.

VILLAGE MARKETS

Village Markets, organised by Arnside Parish Plan Trust, are held in the W.I. Hall.

The next Village Market is on **Easter Saturday 15th April**
10.00am to 4pm

Village markets will also be held
Saturday 17th June
Saturday 2nd September
Saturday 25th November

Printed & Published by: S. Felton - Arnside Messenger. ©2006

Printed by: Stramongate Press Ltd, Kendal

ARNSIDE MESSENGER

Issue No.7

Spring 2006



LOCAL PEOPLE HELPING NEEDY PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

For nearly 10 years there has been an Overseas Aid Group in Arnside, firstly supporting Children's Aid Direct and now International Aid Trust in Morecambe. This charity sends out regular shipments to Eastern Europe and Sri Lanka, where they worked hard in the aftermath of the Tsunami.

The group now concentrates on all the year round "shoeboxes", prepared for all age groups, including babies and pensioners. Over 300 boxes were sent from Arnside last year and the group were delighted to receive a grant from the E.I.

Organiser Christine Hisom explains: "This money enabled us to purchase materials for making shoebox items, such as wool, towelling, gloves, scarves etc." The group also purchased a paper trimmer, heavy duty stapler and punch to help make note and drawing books.

There are regular working groups, where shoeboxes are covered, books made and small toy boxes assembled. Millom Court has a weekly knitting session and children at Arnies have learnt to knit, made pompoms and enjoyed using a wool winder.

Christine explained that apart from gifts made by the group themselves, they also collect pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, crayons and containers to make stationery sets for the children; soap, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste for toilet sets



Overseas Aid members making boxes

and small trays for jewellery and hair slides. Socks and sweets are purchased and with the addition of a greetings card a box is complete.

"We are always glad to receive items for the boxes" said Christine. "Used greeting cards are useful and financial donations are sent to headquarters to offset the very high costs of transportation."

Last year the group exhibited in the Craft Fayre at the Methodist Church where the handiwork was much admired. The wonderful thing about the Overseas Aid Group is that it involves all age groups in the village from young to old. The Day Care Centre covered boxes and the group's President is 92 and very active in crocheting blankets! Men are involved too, one used his wood working skills to produce small wooden dolls.

Christine is happy to bring a completed shoebox to show any group or interested individual. Further details are available from her on 761368.



NEW NOTICE BOARD

One of the proposals in the Parish Plan was that memorial notice boards should be encouraged in the village. The first of these has been donated to the village in memory of Jessie Stewart (1900-1974) and has been placed at the junction of Redhills Road and High Knott Road.

Jessie came to live in Arnside from Manchester in 1930 and lived on Redhills Road until her death. She was to be the catalyst for the Platts family who followed her to the district and settled, eventually having families of their own.

Her nephew, Stewart Platts, his wife Norma and a dozen members of their family, who now live in or near Arnside, are pictured in front of the new board.

If anyone would like to sponsor a noticeboard contact The Clerk at Arnside Parish Council in the first instance.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME?

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service are working closely with other community partners to reduce the number of people being seriously injured or killed in house fires.

One of the ways we are doing this is to carry out home safety checks. Every home in Cumbria is eligible to apply for a free Home Fire Safety Check to help them to deal with the potential fire hazards in their homes. If you contact us, we will help you design a 'fire plan' so that your family will know how to react if you have a fire in your home.

If necessary, we will also fit a battery powered smoke alarm so that your family will get an early warning of fire.

This service is completely free of charge and will not take up more than 30 minutes of your time. These free Home Fire Safety

Checks will be carried out by local Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service personnel, who will always carry an Identification Card.

Please contact Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service on 0800 358 4777 to arrange your FREE Home Fire Safety Check.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

This edition of the Arnside Messenger has been sponsored by the Albion Community Fund. We would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Leversley for their kind donation.

If you would like information included in the Messenger about your organisation please contact the editor, Sandy Felton, on 762653 or by email: messenger.arnside@tesco.net

OUTREACH VETERINARY CLINICS

Will be held on the following dates from 2.00pm to 3.30pm

in the W.I. Hall

Thursday 27th April

Thursday 25th May

Thursday 29th June

Thursday 14th September

Thursday 30th November

Please note that booking for the Outreach Veterinary Clinics is by appointment with the Bay Veterinary

Group on

015395 62770 (Milnthorpe) and the resident Vet will be Mr R.W.Bottom

At the end of the year members designed their own T-shirts. Trips out have included Holgates swimming, making fires on the beach and a joint trip by coach with the seniors to go bowling.

The Senior Youth Group continues to flourish with 30 members. Ages range from 11 to 15 years and it is encouraging to report that many older members are in attendance. Meetings take place fortnightly but it is hoped that weekly meetings will become possible in future when more adult leaders are in place.

Members have taken part in many activities during the year ranging from general club nights, during which young people decide the way in which the event is organised, e.g. table tennis, card and board games etc., to craft evenings and sessions led by a visitor e.g. drumming, dance and drama workshops.

If you would like to support Arnside Youth Project come to our coffee morning on Saturday 22nd April, 10am-12noon at the E.I. Further information contact: Diane 762603, Sharon 761039 or Judith 762053.

AONB MATTERS

The AONB Office has been running a very successful Sustainable Development Fund since October 2005 and has so far distributed £85,000 of grant aid. Projects aided include the Arnside Cemetery Chapel restoration, a Hydro-electric scheme on the River Bela and an oral history of woodland management in the AONB.

Another scheme funded by the Sustainable Development Fund, aims to get householders throughout the area converted to low-energy bulbs. The innovative scheme will be launched at the AONB Discovery Day on 6th April.

The growing concern at the rate of climate change, caused by burning fossil fuels and the consequent emission of greenhouse gases, demands action from all of us. This AONB will be severely impacted by the rise of sea levels that will occur as the world warms and the Bittern's reed bed habitat will be inundated and destroyed. We all need to reduce our consumption of energy and the low energy bulb is an easy (and money saving way) of doing so. The Bittern Energy Bulb Exchange will give away two free low energy bulbs in return for an old tungsten bulb.

David Askew

ARNSIDE YOUTH PROJECT

The Junior Youth Group enjoyed a wide range of activities over the last year. Games nights, sports on the field, theme evenings and a quiz night have all proved successful and at the end of July a substantial number of youngsters from the youth group joined the senior group.

Consequently, the junior group now has fewer members but this doesn't affect the range of activities that are provided.

The discos held at the football club are popular and are open to all young people in the area. It is hoped to have these each term.