

SPOTLIGHT ON ARNSIDE PARISH COUNCIL



Continuing our profile of Arnside's Parish Councillors, this edition we feature Sue Hewett

Councillor Sue Hewett joined the Parish Council in March 2006 and so is one of the newer councillors. She came to Arnside with partner Peter after retirement from the BBC as a Broadcast Assistant, nearly three years ago.

Their decision to settle in Arnside was made as a result of many visits to the area as walkers. Sue believes that Arnside has many "jewels" and it was the desire to help keep those jewels that she decided to become involved with the Parish Council.

"Arnside is a lovely place to live", explains Sue. "It's difficult to quantify but when you think about all the many assets that the village has, it's worth striving to maintain those things. We have the Post Office which is incredibly important to the village, the E.I and W.I. and a great little library. Now we have the Cemetery Chapel as another asset. There is a good range of shops and we have new businesses opening and this all adds to a vibrant and viable community."

Having lived in several parts of the UK, before settling in Arnside, Sue is well placed to appreciate what makes Arnside special: "We have a wealth of talent in this village," she says. "I believe that we should try and tap into that and involve people who can do things to help maintain the spirit and vibrancy of Arnside."

Having spent 25 years in Scouting, rising to the rank of Commissioner, Sue is passionate about facilities for younger people. She supports the enhancement of the playground facilities and stresses the importance of after-school clubs such as Armies.

Sue is Chairman of Dallam Theatre Group and also belongs to a number of societies in the village: "There are a



tremendous number of societies in this village," she explains. "It's another reason why living here is so special."

However, she is fully aware that there are also problems which have to be tackled such as affordable housing and the need to regularise parking, particularly along the seafront areas.

Currently, Sue serves on the Cemetery Chapel Committee of the Parish Council and is keen to see the Chapel become another focal point in village life. She works part time with the Mental Health Services in Lancaster and when she does get some spare time likes nothing better than working in her garden.



CEMETERY CHAPEL EVENTS

The next event at the Cemetery Chapel will be "Mozart in Vienna" on Saturday 16th December at 3pm. Tickets £2.50. The Book of Donations is available to view at Chapel Events. The Book records all those who have donated to the Chapel restoration.

ARNSIDE MESSENGER

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OPEN DAY AT ASHMEADOW GARDEN A GREAT SUCCESS

The John Barnes Charitable Trust has been seeking opinions and suggestions from residents regarding the possible development of the area owned by the Trust. To this end they organised a highly successful open day, last September, at the Walled Garden in the grounds of Ashmeadow.

The Trustees have received 28 responses to their questionnaire and several letters with comments as to how local residents see the area developing. Suggestions for future use include: conversion into a wild flower meadow/ part of the garden be used for an aboretum-cum-nursery for trees and wild flowers. The majority of responses were positive that the orchards should remain as they are at present.

While it was agreed that more signs are required, display boards would be welcomed to indicate features of importance. It was also felt that no more footpaths should be created as there were sufficient at present.

The situation regarding the gardener's cottage also provoked much comment. The variety of suggestions range from demolition to complete renovation but there was no unanimity of opinion. So the Trustees have been considering a range of

options which included demolition; an early 'make safe' programme to replace the roof to limit further deterioration; reducing the height of the walls to make the building a one-storey workshop/store; converting cottage into a display area/ workshop/meeting room or converting buildings into a small dwelling to provide accommodation for a part-time warden.

The Trustees have agreed that to do nothing is not an option and demolition would be a last resort. Current thinking is that an early "make safe" programme was a possibility but renovation, without considerable financial assistance, was unlikely in the short term. However, the Trustees have agreed to consult a suitably qualified architect to advise and evaluate the possibilities of renovation/conversion.

If you would like to know more about The Barnes Charitable Trust contact Vic Gray on 761600.



Messenger Editor Sandy Felton in the Walled Garden

Merry Christmas

Best wishes to all our readers for a Happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year from the Editor and Messenger Team

Thanks to everyone who has supported the APPT during the year - deliverers and contributors.

ARNSIDE PARISH PLAN TRUST

A better future for the village

The Arnside Parish Plan Trust works in co-operation with the Parish Council and other local bodies to stimulate and carry out initiatives which improve amenities for the village.

The Trust was formed initially from the Parish Plan initiative in 2003. Since then APPT have had some notable successes including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnside Messenger community newsletter; • indoor craft markets; • outreach veterinary clinic; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dropped curbs for disabled access to essential services; • open day (for safety, aids for daily living, emergency services etc.); |
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They have also supported other successful initiatives including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnside youth project • broadband availability; • litter collection and awareness; • traffic regulation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • path maintenance • dog fouling campaign (with successful partnership with children from Arnside School) |
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It is time for APPT to review its objectives. The aim is to consult as widely as practicable for constructive ideas which we can try to put into place. Some issues we already know about:

- Foreshore parking
- Disabled station access
- Audio tapes for the visually impaired
- Better local information
- Youth initiatives

Please contribute to our response sheet below. Your responses will be used to determine the need to work with areas not originally highlighted in the 2003-2008 Parish Plan.

An Open Day to discuss feedback will be held on 21st April. (Details in next edition of the Messenger). If you would like to get involved with APPT, contact Brian Walker on 761949.

RESPONSE SHEET

Please respond by listing up to three developments you would like to see in Arnside. Your responses will be an important part of our consultations as we prepare the next phase of the plan.

1.
2.
3.

Name: Address:

Return your responses to the Library or to G Pinder, Greycroft, Spinney Lane, Arnside, LA5 OEP or reply online - www.arnside.co.uk - and follow Key Arnside Sites, Parish Plan Trust.

SUCCESSFUL BURSARY SCHEME SET FOR ANOTHER YEAR

In addition to its regular, established scheme of financial aid to students, Arnside Educational Institute now offers an annual Educational Bursary of £500 to a student engaged on a special study or project having relevance to Arnside Parish.

The first holder of the Bursary, Caroline Jewell, has recently completed a dissertation for her M.Sc. on the effects of scrub clearance on Heathwaite on Arnside Knott (and Warton Crag). She focused specifically on ground beetle communities, using pitfall traps to collect beetles over a five-week period at scrub, grassland, and scrub-cleared sites. The broader aim was to discover what style of land management produces the highest richness of species, and it was concluded that the biodiversity of a conservation area is best achieved when a mosaic of scrub, grassland and tree habitats is created.

Applications are invited for the 2007 Bursary. Contact Sue Gibson, Arnside Educational Institute, Church Hill, Arnside, LA5 0DF.

Terry Keefe

AONB MATTERS

The AONB Service and the AONB Business Forum are about to launch the 2007 Visit Bittern Initiative. Building on the successful publication of the Visit Bittern visitor leaflet early in 2006, we are about to switch on a website - www.visitbittern.co.uk - which will signpost web-users to individual business web-sites and promote more sustainable ways of reaching and enjoying the AONB.

The AONB Service and the RSPB at

Leighton Moss are also hosting a nine-month marketing student placement in the area to help Business Forum members with individual marketing ideas and campaigns. The scheme aims to promote economic activity among the tourism and recreation business within the AONB, while ensuring that business development does not conflict with the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB.

Bittern Bulb Exchange

Following on from the success of the Bittern Bulb Exchange to get householders throughout the area converted to low-energy bulbs, the innovative scheme has been extended to businesses in the AONB. Following completion of a self assessed energy survey, using techniques approved by the Carbon Trust, businesses can receive up to 30 low energy bulbs to meet their business lighting needs.

The householder scheme is still active too! Please bring into the AONB office two old energy-guzzling bulbs and exchange them for two 11w(60 watt equivalent) low-energy bulbs. We all need to reduce our consumption of energy and each low-energy you fit will save over £100 of electricity over its lifetime compared to tungsten bulbs.

David Askew, AONB Officer

MESSANGER CONTACTS



If you would like to contribute towards the cost of producing the Messenger please contact Rachel Dutfield on 762573. To contact the editor Sandy Felton please email: arnsidemessenger@tiscali.co.uk