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POULSHOT VILLAGE NEWS



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Details from Mr M Bowden
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**ISSUE NUMBER 127
February 2007**

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Chairman: **Mr M Hues**

Mrs S Aldridge
Mr G Collett

Mr J Baber
Mr N Hunloke

Mrs MG Brothers
Mr M Nixon

Clerk: **Mr Michael Wilson**

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Tel: 01380 828615

Churchwarden: **Mr B James**

Members:

Mr N Hunloke - Treasurer

Mrs P Bremner-Milne

Mrs A Bullen

Mr R Janes

Lady Kate Hunloke

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Secretary:

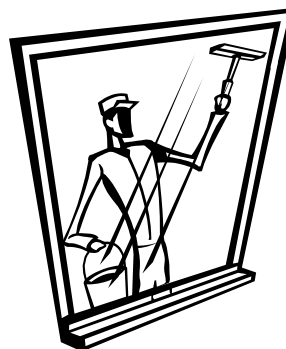
Treasurer: **Mr B James**

Archivist: **Mrs P. Langton**

POULSHOT WEB SITE **www.poulshot.org.uk**

All contributions welcome - do you have any events you want publicised? The Poulshot web site can help or you can log on to www.kennet.gov.uk, select events and you can post your events for the world to see!

Mike Wilson - Mai_wilson@onetel.com



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Letters Page

Please feel free to write to the Village News to share your views, opinions and concerns on local or national issues. Serious or humorous letters welcomed!

Please send your letters to:
Poulshot Village News,
c/o John Quinn,
51 The Green,
Poulshot,
Devizes,
SN10 1RT

Wiltshire County Councillor
Mrs Patricia Rugg - 01380 722677
2 The Farmhouse, Byron Road,
Devizes SN10 5NS

Kennet District Councillor
for Seend and Poulshot
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thelma.carr@kennet.gov.uk
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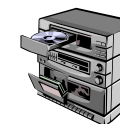
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USEFUL POULSHOT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman Parish Council	Mr Michael Hues	828255
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Michael Wilson	828100
	Email: Mai_wilson@onetel.com	
Rector	Rev Sacha Pearce	828615
Churchwarden	Mr Brian James	724944
Secretary PCC	Mrs Janet James	724944
Village Trust, Chairman	Mr Nicholas Hunloke	828333
Village Trust, Secretary		
Village Hall Committee) Village Hall Bookings)	Mr Chris Saunders	827290
Mother & Toddler Group	Mrs Penny Nixon	828012
Farmers Club	Mr Richard Francis	828232
Poulshot Ladies Club	Lady Kate Hunloke	828333
YORP	Mrs Jackie Wiltshire	725076
	Mrs Mel Dalley	726211
POLICE (General/Non Emergency)		0845 408 7000
County Councillor	Mrs Pat Rugg	722677
Kennet District Councillor	Thelma Carr	828756
Editor, Poulshot News :	Mr John Quinn	828501
	Email: johnquinn589@btinternet.com	

Do you need help with:

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Contact:

GORDON LAWRENCE

Chartered Accountant

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EDITORIAL

It may have been prophetic, it may just have been coincidence, but last November the Wednesday Discussion Group selected as the topic for its January meeting, "What does Community mean to you? Is it Important?" The report of that discussion is on page 22. On page 6 is the report of the Parish Council meeting that invited me to include in this issue of the Poulshot Village News a detailed explanation of the Village Design Statement. This is on page 9. There is also a brief outline of recent government proposals to re-organise local government, together with Wiltshire County Council's recommendation that District Councils should be abolished (a view already accepted by North Wilts DC) (page 8). It does seem that one outcome of all this is that Parish Councils might be given more responsibility and more power and that the community – the village – might just have a little more say in its future development. All this may still be in the realm of suggestion, proposal and recommendation. Nevertheless, the thought that has been voiced in the village, that our lifestyle today has somehow made the concept of "community" obsolete, may be a trifle premature. On the contrary, perhaps we should all become a little more concerned for that vague but significant entity to which we belong!

The Poulshot Village News (PVN)

When we offered to produce a parish magazine some twelve years ago we had three aims:

- To make villagers aware of what was happening in their village.
- To report on things that had happened, both for interest and as a record for the future.
- To include other articles that might be amusing or of general interest.

To meet the first two aims we are largely dependent on the support of organisers of events and of special interest groups to keep us informed, and on the whole this works reasonably well, given the occasional need for both a stick and a carrot, although it is not infrequently frustrating trying to gather information at the last minute to enable the *Village News* to be assembled and delivered in a timely fashion. Our third aim has been met in fits and starts – *A Farmer's Diary*, *The Diary of a Pub Landlord*, *A Country Diary* (subsequently published as a little illustrated book that still sells occasional copies - £1 each!), *Computers made easy!!!*, *Days in the life of....*; these were

Deadline for copy for March 2007

20 February 2007

Tel: 01380 828501 Email: johnquinn589@btinternet.com

all short term series that either ran their course or fizzled out through lack of interest or imagination. So be it, but we often wonder if we aren't sinking slowly into a morass of boredom and yawn and *we would welcome any ideas or contributions that could perhaps lift the PVN to a level where the interest might ensure that the routine material was also read.* We are quite ready to retire gracefully if that is seen as the solution, but we do not want to particularly, and will not leave the village without some form of regular communication.

John Quinn, Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Mon 5	Mobile Library, The Raven Car Park, 1125—1135am
Mon 5	Plastic/Cardboard Skip, Village Hall, 1130am—1.30pm
Wed 7	Black Wheelie Bin Collection
Wed 14	Black Box/Green Wheelie Bin Collections
Mon 19	Mobile Library, The Raven Car Park, 1125—1135am
Wed 21	Black Wheelie Bin Collection
Wed 28	Black Box/Green Wheelie Bin Collections

March

Mon 5	Mobile Library, The Raven Car Park, 1125—1135am
Tue 6	Poulshot Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 7	Black Wheelie Bin Collection
Sat 10	Lent Lunch, Village Hall, 12noon—2pm (<i>see page 19</i>)
Fri 9	Poulshot Race Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm (<i>see page 15</i>)
Wed 14	Black Box/Green Wheelie Bin Collections
Mon 19	Mobile Library, The Raven Car Park, 1125—1135am
Wed 21	Black Wheelie Bin Collection
Wed 21	Wednesday Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm—Has technology replaced thought and conversation?
Wed 28	Black Box/Green Wheelie Bin Collections
Wed 28	Poulshot Ladies Club, Village Hall, 8pm—Pampered Chef Cooking Evening

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 9th January 2007. **Mr Hues** was away and in his absence, **Mr Malcolm Nixon** took the chair. There were no other apologies. **Mr Joe Dyke** has resigned from the Council.

COMMUNITY FIRST



New wheelchair accessible vehicle makes it easier to get around

A charity which works with rural communities in Wiltshire and Swindon has recently taken delivery of a wheelchair accessible vehicle to help people with mobility difficulties to get out and about.

Run by Community First on behalf of Wiltshire County Council, the vehicle is available for self-drive hire by families, groups or individuals with a wheelchair but without transport.

The multi-purpose vehicle (M.P.V.) can be driven using an ordinary car licence and it can carry up to four passengers plus one wheelchair which can be wheeled straight into the vehicle.

The vehicle is available to hire at a low rate of £20 per day plus 10p per mile, although Community First is also looking to offer concessions to people without the means to meet all of these costs.

The vehicle is additionally available for self-drive hire to groups and individuals without a wheelchair. For more information, please contact Liam Tatton-Bennett at Community First on (01380) 722475 ext. 243 or by e-mail ltatton-bennett@communityfirst.org.uk

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There were nine members of the public present and representatives of the Police and Kennet District Council were in attendance for part of the meeting. **Mr Ed White** of Kennet District Council attended for the opening item on the agenda.

Village Design Statement. At the last meeting the Council was briefed on the preparation of a Parish Plan; on this occasion Mr White explained the difference between the Parish Plan and a Village Design Statement. There is a separate explanation of these documents on pages 9-12 of this magazine and everyone is urged to read this and to respond as suggested.

Police. **Inspector Caroline Evely** briefed the meeting on crime reported in the village, which comprised one case each of theft of money and one of breaking into a car and theft of property. She also spelt out the situation regarding breaches of the peace and ASBOs and how these problems should be dealt with by members of the village. If there are situations where there is doubt over how to react, the Parish Clerk can advise, and in his absence, ring the police on 0845 408 7000. If the nuisance is caused by an occupant of a Housing Association property, a call to Sarsen is another option.

Other Business.

Council. **Mrs MG Brothers** was invited by members to join the Council and agreed to do so.

The Council also confirmed that they wished **Mr M Wilson** to continue in his post as Parish Clerk.

Speed Limits. New limits became effective on 21st January.

Stewards. The next visit under the stewardship scheme will be on 15th February. Progress on clearing footpaths and the removal of brambles is being maintained. The white posts marking the pond by Plank's Dairy, and hopefully those by the stream at the north end of the Green, will be repainted when the weather is appropriate. The Clerk will raise again with Highways the need to repair damaged footpaths.

Outstanding Matters. The Clerk reported that the Council's views on the new footpath at Townsend had been accepted by Wiltshire County Council – the iron pipe work will be replaced with an oak post, allowing access for prams and horses (as well as people) and more appropriate signs will be installed.

The Clerk also outlined the position regarding access to the Green and was asked to resolve problems amicably.

The damage to the Green caused by sewerage works will be put right once the weather makes it possible.

The very high water bill for the Green Gardens will be investigated.

Plans. A number of planning applications have been approved, including the alterations requested for Higher Green Farmhouse.

The Green.

Tracks. There was considerable discussion on the tracks that surround the Green, allowing access to residents. Various proposals were made over the maintenance of the tracks, as between the present arrangement whereby residents make their own mutual arrangements, generally, if not always, a satisfactory system, and the suggestion that the Council should accept responsibility for all maintenance, billing the residents as appropriate. The latter option received little support. The use in wet weather of stones on the edge of the Green to discourage visiting drivers from using the Green as a turning circle, thus causing damage to the edges and to the grass, has been deprecated, but no alternative solution being satisfactory residents may continue this longstanding practice until some better arrangements can be made. Work is necessary to the corners of the lead-in to the tracks from the road, which have in some instances been badly damaged by heavy trade vehicles. The subject will be kept under consideration and reviewed at the next meeting.

Dogs. Dog mess on the Green was universally condemned and all dog walkers were again reminded that they were responsible for picking up and removing their animals' droppings from the Green. Failure to do so might attract a fine.

Grazing Rights. Subsequent to the meeting the Parish Clerk has advised that as far as he can discover, there are no current residents' grazing rights on the Green.

Finance. The Council's accounts continue to be healthy. A request for funds from those preparing the Parish Welcome Pack was approved.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm. At this meeting, the Officer Commanding, Operations Wing, RAF Lyneham, (providers of our own "Frequent Flyers") will speak.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Most of you will know that the government has proposed a major change to the pattern of local government, and this has been the subject of much debate in counties over the past few months. The aims of this reorganisation, as set out in a recent Wiltshire County Council (WCC) presentation are as follows:

- Responsive and Empowered Communities
- Effective, Accountable and Responsive Local Government
- Local Government as leader and "place shaper"
- New Performance Framework (Targets? ed)
- Efficiency

Pollard of Bristol University found the hole that originally held the stone, dug between 2500 and 2000 B.C., as well as human remains and artifacts that date to the same period.

The partially cremated remains of two people were buried next to the stone, Pollard said. One was a large male whose unburned vertebrae suggest he was at least 6 feet (182 centimeters) tall. "Seemingly he was so big they weren't able to cremate him properly," the archaeologist noted. "The unburnt bone is the product of that poor process of cremation." Stone knives and arrowheads, a piece of limestone carved into the shape of a megalith, two pottery bowls, and a rare rock crystal were also unearthed near the burial site. The rock crystal find is the earliest known example from Britain and possibly came from as far away as the Alps, Pollard said. Archaeologists have suggested that other prehistoric burials in the area were connected to mainland Europe, Pollard added. Such a connection ties in with theories that Stonehenge was an important pilgrimage destination or a place where people travelled in the hope of miracle cures.

Pollard's team also found new evidence for stone settings at Woodhenge, a site 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) northeast of Stonehenge where a timber circle was constructed in about 2200 B.C. Pollard said excavations in the 1920s hinted a stone monument may once have been present at the site. "We were able to confirm last summer that there had been standing stones, some very considerable stones, at Woodhenge," he said. While only fragments of the formation were found, the holes the stones were set in suggest the blocks stood up to 3 meters (9.8 feet) tall, Pollard said. The team also found evidence for two phases of stone settings that probably came after the timber circle had rotted, he added. "Four smaller stones were replaced by two much bigger sarsen settings," he said. "So it goes from a timber monument to being a megalithic monument, albeit not on the same scale as Stonehenge." What happened to the stones at Woodhenge remains a mystery, Pollard added, though one possibility is that they were added to Stonehenge.

The research team says there is evidence from old maps and ancient sources for other similar monuments near Stonehenge. "There may have been many smaller megalithic settings across this landscape," Pollard said. "I think it's extremely likely there would have been other standing stones," particularly to the east, added **Julian Thomas**, professor of archaeology at Manchester University. Such monuments would have had an important connection to Stonehenge, Thomas said. The stones and artifacts buried alongside the satellite monuments may have also played a symbolic role in spreading the authority of Stonehenge into the wider landscape. "It was a way of referring to its powerfulness and to the importance and significance of the activities that are taking place at the henge and the people who are officiating," Thomas said. He added that these latest finds show that Stonehenge shouldn't be seen in isolation. "There's an overarching scheme of things which links Stonehenge to the broader landscape." **National Geographic (January 2007)**

STONEHENGE DIDN'T STAND ALONE

James Owen writing for National Geographic News January 12, 2007 says Stonehenge didn't stand alone. Recent excavations of Salisbury Plain have revealed at least two other large stone formations close by the world-famous prehistoric monument. One of the megalithic finds is a sandstone formation that marked a ritual burial mound; the other, a group of stones at the site of an ancient timber circle.

The Wednesday Group

**Has Technology replaced
Thought and Conversation?**

*Have we lost the ability to talk because we text...
or the mind to think because we're mesmerised
by the telly?*

Wednesday 21 March 2007 7.30pm
Village Hall, Poulshot
All are very welcome

For further details, please ring Rupert Janes on 828639 or
Rev Sacha Pearce 828615

Do please get in touch if there is a subject YOU WOULD REALLY LIKE
TO BE DISCUSSED. All offers willingly considered!

The new discoveries suggest that many similar monuments may have been erected in the shadow of Stonehenge, possibly forming part of a much larger complex, experts say. The findings were part of the Stonehenge Riverside Project, a joint initiative to explore the land around the iconic monument. Led by **Mike Parker Pearson** of Sheffield University, the project involves six English universities.

The first monument—a 9.2-foot-long (2.8-meter-long) sarsen stone was found lying in a field next to the River Avon, 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) east of Stonehenge. The river-side sarsen (large sandstone blocks that occur naturally in southern England) had been stood upright, archaeologists say, like the blocks that form the main structure of Stonehenge. A team led by **Colin Richards** of Manchester University and **Joshua**

Clearly a lot more information will be needed before we are able to evaluate these aims – even interpret them, and the devil will lie in the detail when it is more readily available and interpreted, but at the moment it should be noted that the WCC plan is to establish the County as a Unitary authority, working directly to town and parish councils, resulting in the abolition of District Councils. Something called an Area Board (a Quango?) will also be established.

Such a solution will, WCC say, have the following effects:

- Improvements in Neighbourhoods
- Better quality services, tailored to the needs of users
- Localities which are good places in which to live and work
- People empowered (!) and having a sense of belonging in their Community
- Councillors who represent and are advocates for all sections of the community
- Higher levels of engagement and participation

As a major plank of government policy, these proposals are likely to be moved along with some energy (think of the next General Election) and the final WCC submission to the government was due by 25th January. There will be many questions and as more information becomes available, we will do our best to keep you up to date. North Wilts District Council have already accepted the proposals.

THE FUTURE OF POULSHOT !

There is universal cynicism about the interest paid by government at every level to the needs and wishes of communities (indeed, there have been recent examples in the village of lip service being paid by higher authorities to planning regulations at our expense) and whichever political party is in power in the future, at national, county or district level, this cynicism could well continue to be justified. However, for the sake of a one-time concerted effort by members of the community, however small it is, there might just be a logical argument that if we don't do something now, we will have no grounds for complaint if one day we find that **the Village Green has become a giant hypermarket, the Green Gardens are an open prison for paedophiles or illegal immigrants and the dual-carriageway Devizes Bypass runs through the middle of the village.**

THEN WHOSE FAULT WOULD THAT BE?

In the last issue of the *Poulshot Village News* we referred to the proposal that the Parish Council should manage the production of a **Parish Plan**. It is clear that such a plan would take a lot of work to produce and would not be a document with any legal status, but it would set out the ideas of the members of the community on how they would like to see the parish develop. Since then it has become apparent that an alternative document might be more appropriate, and that is a **Village Design Statement**.

What are these Plans and Statements?

The style and format of both documents would depend on how those who produce it see as the best way to present our community point of view. They would show:

- Local characteristics
- Local problems and possible opportunities
- How the community wants to develop into the future
- A proposed Plan of Action.

The major differences between the two are:

The Parish Plan approaches the future of the village from a broad social point of view and would be a useful guide and background to future development. It would have no formal status and therefore would be no more than a guide to higher authorities when change of any sort is under consideration.

The Village Design Statement would deal more specifically with the physical qualities and aspects of future physical development – to a degree what we now talk of as “Planning Matters”. When completed, and after scrutiny by the District Council, such a document could have a positive influence on decisions made by planning authorities.

Why?

There are three reasons why as a community we might consider producing one of these documents:

1. For ourselves, the preparatory work will help us all to play a part in considering the future of our parish and the community within it.
2. For the Parish Council it will ensure that members know what priorities the community place on changes and the standards they

ALL THESE ANIMALS CAN CHANGE COLOUR!

Chameleon, Flounder (a fish), Octopus, Cuttlefish, Golden tortoise beetle, Bark spider.

FACT!

THE SKY IS BLUE BECAUSE LIGHT IS MADE UP OF THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF COLOURS – VIOLET, INDIGO, BLUE AND GREEN, YELLOW ORANGE AND RED. WE SEE THESE COLOURS SPLIT UP WHEN WE SEE A RAINBOW. SOME OF THE COLOURS TRAVEL THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE EASILY, BUT SOME (LIKE BLUE) DON'T. THE MOLECULES IN THE AIR BOUNCE THE BLUE AROUND AND WHEN WE LOOK AT THE SKY WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS LOTS OF BLUE LIGHT. THE SEA LOOKS BLUE BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE SKY!

MIXING PAINT COLOURS:

RED + YELLOW = ORANGE	BLUE + YELLOW = GREEN
BLUE + RED = PURPLE	BLACK + WHITE = GREY
RED + WHITE = PINK	RED + GREEN + BLUE = BROWN

RAINBOWS:

SADLY, THERE CAN BE NO GOLD AT THE END OF A RAINBOW BECAUSE RAINBOWS ARE CIRCULAR! (KEEP CHECKING THOUGH JUST IN CASE!)

THERE ARE REALLY ONLY 6 COLOURS IN THE RAINBOW. THE INDIGO WE SEE IS THE BLUE FADING INTO VIOLET!

SAME JOKE DIFFERENT PUNCHLINE!

Q: WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?

A: A NEWSPAPER!

Q: WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?

A: AN EMBARRASSED ZEBRA!

Q: WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?

A: A PENGUIN WITH CHICKEN POX!

Q: WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?

A: A DALMATION HOLDING HIS BREATH!

	CHILDREN'S PAGE	
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

COLOUR

LISTED BELOW ARE EIGHTEEN COLOUR NAMES. CAN YOU
FIND SIX REDS, SIX BLUES AND SIX GREENS?

VERMILLION	CERULEAN	CARMINE
CYAN	CHARTREUSE	CORNFLOWER
MOSS	FIR	LIME
BERYL	ULTRAMARINE	AZURE
PRUSSIAN	SAGE	CLARET
ROSE MADDER	BURGUNDY	RUSSET

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR?

RED: If your favourite colour is red, it signifies that you have a fiery and passionate nature. You can get angry easily, but also have bags of energy. You are lucky, successful and happy.

GREEN: If green is your favourite colour it signifies that you have an innocent nature. You like safety and harmony in your life and will look for reassurance. You can be jealous. You are open to new ideas, enjoy your relaxation time and always live in hope.

YELLOW: If your favourite colour is yellow it signifies that you are a warm and happy person with a sunny outlook on life. You are active and creative. Although you can be jealous, you are always courageous.

BLUE: If blue is your favourite colour it signifies that you love life. You are a loyal and trustworthy friend and someone who is peaceful to be around. You can be a bit of a dreamer, but you are always reliable.

BRAIN TEASER!

Can you think of any words that rhyme with:
ORANGE, SILVER or PURPLE?

wish to see being maintained.

3. For the local authority, and for other service providers, it could help to influence decisions on where money is spent, preferably in support of the community's wishes rather than in spite of them.

If it is clear that a formal parish plan really does have the support of the community and represents both a consensus of views and the results of wide consultation, it can at least stand alongside existing planning papers such as Kennet's 'Design Statement' and the recently produced 'Conservation Statement', as well as wider development plans and the strategies of service providers.

What is Involved?

Initially a small working party would be formed and managed by the Parish Council, together with a small number of parishioners who would be expected to play an active part from inception of the plan to its completion. This will involve consultation, possibly formally as well as informally, throughout the community as well as with outside bodies which might be helpful, and the recording and prioritising of ideas and proposals. The format of the plan would need careful design and production to ensure its recognition as a document of importance both within the parish and, equally important, with decision-making organisations elsewhere. Clearly there will be a requirement for a number of committed and dedicated volunteers to make up this working party and one experienced planner has already offered his services.

Content

Although all the following topics will not figure in the final plan they will need to be taken into consideration:

Built Environment, Conservation, People, Community Information, Crime, Education, Employment, Health and Healthcare, Heritage, Housing, Retail Services, Recycling, Sport and Recreation, Public Transport, Landscape and Wildlife Habitats, Community Buildings, Traffic, Age Groups, Community Groups (the Church, Ladies Club, Mothers and Toddlers, Farmers Club).

Cost

Inevitably there will be costs involved and limited external funding is available, but most of the work must be done on a voluntary basis.

Conclusion

The Parish Council consider that the **Parish Design Statement** is the most influential document of the two and, as it will also cover many of the points likely to be considered in the Parish Plan, it should, subject to the interest and support of the community, be prepared. Furthermore, there is much talk of more and drastic change to local government generally, and this could be a wise time to prepare our own, community, position.

Action

Please consider this carefully and take a little time to answer the following questions:

1. Do you think a **Parish Design Statement** is **important**?
2. If the answer to 1. is **YES** – what are the **three** most important topics it should address?
3. If there is a general consensus that a Design Statement should be prepared, **will you help**?
4. If the answer to 3. is **YES** – what are your name and address and/or contact number?

Please write your answers, whether in support or not, on a piece of paper and give/post it to a Parish Councillor, or the Parish Clerk, or the Editor of the *Poulshot Village News*, by the end of February, after which, depending on the interest shown, there will be a parish meeting to talk the matter through in detail.



Neighbourhood Watch

The New Year brings with it the new Neighbourhood Watch signs, located at either end of the village. Whilst not high profile, they exist as an indication that Poulshot is a community that looks after itself and the people who live in it. Nevertheless, incidents do still occur from time to time and it is important that we let each other know about them in order to better protect and deter. A recent attempt, at the bottom end of the village, to break the lock off a diesel tank on a resident's property was unsuccessful. If you notice any suspicious activity please do not hesitate to call the non-emergency number **0845 408 7000** or, if necessary dial **999**. And of course, you may always contact any of the Neighbourhood Watch represent-

Kate thanked Paulette for 10 years of devotion to the Ladies Club and wished her well, to a round of applause. She was presented with a blue glass decanter and vase to show our appreciation for all the work she has done. Dinner was followed by Christmas drinks and mince pies at the Old Rectory. On **24th January** 20 members met in the Village Hall over a glass or two of wine to discuss our programme of events for 2007, and several people came up with different ideas. (It is hoped to give full details for 2007 in the March *Village News*.) During the meeting **Marian Stimpson** agreed to take over the task of Treasurer/Secretary.

Dates for your Diaries

February Meeting Details not available as we go to print. Members will be informed individually.

Wednesday, 28th March “Pampered Chef Cooking Evening” with **Suzanne Wickham** Come and have an evening of good food and fun.

YOUTH OF ROWDE AND POULSHOT “YORP”

“YORP” 2007 commenced on the 19th January, we hope to see a rise in numbers during the winter months and members using their club to meet and chill-out with friends.

NOT TO BE MISSED ~ MUSICXPRESS 2 hit our club on Friday 26th January for 10 weeks ~ FREE!

A chance for all young people to experience music technology at first hand, make their own music, create samples, record them live, write lyrics, make tracks, burn their own CD's, try DJ-ing, have fun and Xpress themselves by designing covers.

If you enjoy music or are thinking about a career in the music industry this is a fantastic opportunity to take part in 10 taster workshops, this, (if you get a real feel for it) leading to a week-long course at either Salisbury College or the Wiltshire Music Centre at Bradford on Avon in the Easter Holidays for just £10 !!

Young people of Poulshot up to the age of 18 years are welcome to join us over the 10 weeks of **MUSIC XPRESS**. This will be held in the Gun Alley/ Playstation room.

Usual activities will be available as always in the rest of the Rowde Village Hall.

For more information contact: **Mel Dalley (726211)**

more worrying. We have already implemented changes in security to try and prevent any repetition.

After the success of the last School Ball, and many requests for another the R.S.A. are pleased to say the 2nd Rowde School Ball is booked for 9th June in a marquee again on the school site. For those of you that were unable to get a ticket last year, or those who want to come again, put the date in your diary and start asking your friends and family if they would like to make up a table, or as with last year you don't have to have a whole table. Ticket information to follow soon – watch this space!



FOOTBALL

Jan Winter, who lives in Sillington Lane, is keen to restart a football team, starting with a match at Easter and possibly going on from there on a more regular basis.

Would anyone who is interested, please contact Jan on 828561 – after 6pm please.

POULSHOT LADIES CLUB

Poulshot Ladies Club is open to all ladies in the village—young and old alike. We are a friendly, informal group and we normally try and get together once a month—in 2007 it will be the last Wednesday in each month. We arrange a variety of talks, visits to gardens, the theatre, picnics, etc. In 2006 Mr **Alan Aldridge**, the auctioneer, came and gave us a talk about his knowledge of the Titanic: we enjoyed a holistic evening at the Earth Collection Shop in Devizes; a magical evening at the Poulshot Proms in the Green Gardens Woodland, making Christmas cards at the Old Potato Yard, to mention but a few. And, of course, our annual Christmas Dinner at the Raven.

December meeting. The Christmas Dinner at the Raven was, as usual, a great success. About 27 members attended and we were given a delicious meal. We each brought a small gift, already wrapped, which we put in a big bag, and, after dinner, we all chose our first Seasonal presents!

Kate Hunloke, as Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and announced that **Paulette Bremner-Milne** had decided to stand down as Treasurer/Secretary as she hopes to play a more active role with St Peter's Church.

atives listed below. Please consider using locks on any fuel tanks if you do not already have them.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

By April, Poulshot will have a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team ~ to be shared with neighbouring villages. The team will comprise 1 Community Beat Manager and 2 Police Community Support Officers. Greater visibility and uniformed presence in the village will mean that we will be able to communicate more directly our concerns and needs as individuals and as a community.

The fundamental change in policing structure is the commitment to these dedicated resources. Allocated staff cannot be pulled off to work on other cases or serious crime, which has been a problem in the past.

Tips on observing suspicious behaviour (from Wiltshire & Swindon Neighbourhood Watch).

When noticing any unusual behaviour, remain calm and discreet ~ this gives you the best chance of registering and reporting what you see quickly and accurately.

Look out for anyone –

- trying car doors;
- looking through house/car/shed windows;
- looking under plant pots/door mats etc for keys;
- loitering! If it is no one you recognise, call the police;
- calling on vulnerable neighbours. If they look suspicious call the police;
- climbing over fences or hedges;
- in neighbours' back gardens when the occupants are out or away;
- removing items from houses - some criminals are very bold so as NOT to arouse suspicion;
- deliberately setting off car alarms and running away - this is sometimes used as a tactic to get people to turn off their alarm;
- looking or doing anything suspicious/out of the ordinary.

Your local contacts:

Judy Edwards	828236	(Barley Hill Lane)
	Email:	pipers2poulshot@tiscali.co.uk
Michael Hues	828255	(Poulshot Road)
Pam Langton	828589	(Poulshot Road)
John Quinn	828501	(The Green)
Wendy Moore	828216	(Sillington Lane)
Nigel Blenkarne	828569	(Mill Lane / Townsend)

Thank you *Judy Edwards*



VILLAGE HALL RACE NIGHT !

For those who were unlucky enough to miss the Poulshot Race Night last March, don't worry, excitement and good fortune and, maybe, your fortune too, are at hand.

On Friday 9th March we are holding another Race Event when the format will be the same as last year.

Before Race Night you have the opportunity to buy a horse and/or a jockey for each of the 8 races - and collect the winnings on the night if you have chosen correctly. The horse and jockey sale is now on and, at £2.50 each, they will all be sold before Race Night. You can beat the rush and get yours by phoning Chris Saunders on 827290 now.

On the night there will be an opportunity to make your fortune (or lose your shirt) on each race and there will be a Race Official to explain to the uninitiated how easy it is to do it! And to help you lose your inhibitions - and, maybe, your money too, there will be a bar.

So, the excitement of rolling home as happy as a millionaire, even if you don't quite achieve that status, is all yours for the taking. All you need do is turn up and join in.

If you've never been to the races before, come and join in and see how we do it in Poulshot. If it's anything like last year, the Hall will be full of Poulshot punters, out for a laugh and an evening of fun.

Many thanks to our sponsors: **Michael Hues, Adam Kidd, Anne Martin, Malcolm Nixon, Clive Sherman, Edwin Giddings, Plank's Dairies.**

See you on the 9th March - and don't forget to phone Chris for your horse and/or jockey.
Chris Saunders 827290

POULSHOT VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB—DECEMBER 2006

Pat Stevens	£100	Val Underwood	£ 40
Chris Saunders	£ 25	C Bertrames	£ 15
Mrs E A Butts	£ 10	Ken Oliver	£ 10
Rachael Hues	£ 10		

The mobility of residents has led to a constantly changing population, and because of the growth of such features as supermarkets, larger schools, the availability of the motor car, within the smaller community there is no longer the reliance on neighbours for not only friendship and support but also for employment, (in Poulshot there were fourteen farms, now there are three) and for home-grown entertainment. The same mobility has led to a significant reduction in the number of properties occupied from generation to generation by the same family, and an increase in the number of in-comers. Effectively, everyone present came from the latter category. The point was made that inevitably, this group would take an increasingly large proportion of responsibility for maintaining the community ethos. This was agreed.

All this led us to question the value of community, and it was eventually accepted, almost unanimously, that the love, friendship, neighbourly support that were available in the community, of whatever size and composition, were invaluable and arguably vital to the majority. These fundamentals were expressed in different ways, personally and in community activities and all exemplified the sometimes derided "Community Spirit". For once, we seemed to come to a general agreement that the answer to the second part of the question was "Yes – Community Does Matter To Us."

There will be no Wednesday Group meeting in February and we will meet next in Poulshot Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st March, when the topic for discussion will be: **'Has technology replaced thought and conversation? Have we lost the ability to talk because we text...or the mind to think because we're mesmerised by the telly?!'** . Come and join us.

Rowde School News

We welcome back **Miss Rodie** to Class 3 and **Mrs Winbolt** to Class 1 this term, the staff and children are pleased to see them both back.

Last term saw good use of the school hall with the four performances of the Christmas play, Christmas party, Carol service and Christmas Fayre. Many thanks to all who supported the Christmas Fayre, nearly £1300 was raised, a fantastic result. Many thanks, also, to those who contributed to the collection at the end of the carol service which raised nearly £180. We were able to share this money equally between C.L.I.C and a Rowde pensioner robbed of her Christmas savings just before Christmas.

Our new year did not start off too well with burglars breaking in and stealing ten laptops (one of which was for a special needs child) and the school safe. Fortunately they did not do too much damage and we are insured, but the inconvenience caused by their loss for two or more weeks and the sheer nerve of the thieves, breaking in when people were in the building, are

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Mondays	9.00am	Matins	SEEND
Tuesdays	9.00am	Matins	POULSHOT
Thursdays	9.00am	Matins	BULKINGTON

CHURCH ROSTERS

<u>February</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Sidesman</u>
4 Feb	6.00pm Mr M Houghton	Mr M Hues
11 Feb	9.30am Mr C Langton	Mr N Hunloke
18 Feb	6.00pm Mr M Hues	Mr J Quinn
25 Feb	9.30am The Rector	Mrs J James
<u>March</u>		
4 Feb	6.00pm Mr N Hunloke	Mr M Houghton

CHURCH FLOWERS

<u>February</u>	
4 Feb	Lady Kate Hunloke
11 & 18 Feb	Mrs Nora Dixon
25 Feb	LENT - No flowers

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP

The Group met on 17th January to consider the questions: "What Does Community Mean To You? Is it Important?" The discussion ranged firstly around what comprises a "Community" and included the Christian community from small parish congregations to the international church, but with reference also to the religious communities of Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism to mention but a few. The size of the community was also seen as an essential aspect of the answers to the questions asked. There are lay communities even smaller than Poulshot, (although the composition of the group on this occasion was predominantly from here,) and communities of any size you care to imagine, from the humble rural hamlet, through individual urban communities within the same town up as far as national racial groupings. A week later and we might even have considered a community of so-called celebrities living a contrived life in an artificial house, knocking spots off each other – but that would have been too far-fetched to justify inclusion, wouldn't it?

There were as many different attitudes in the group to the importance of community as there were examples of it. Changes in society have led to changes in the basis of individual communities and it was suggested that in smaller groups, such as those we live in, these changes have, to a degree, perhaps reduced the need for the community even to have any meaning at all.

POULSHOT RACE NIGHT

FRIDAY 9th



MARCH

7.30pm in the Village Hall

BIG SCREEN RACING

SPONSORED RACES

PRIVATELY OWNED "HORSES"

BETTING

ENTRANCE IS FREE AND THERE WILL BE A

LICENSED BAR

To have a chance to pre-book a horse or jockey
phone Chris Saunders on 827290

Do come for a great evening's entertainment and
to support the Village Hall.



2006 BOXING DAY WALK

I first spent Christmas in Poulshot in the late 1980s. It was then I first became aware of a quaint event known as the Poulshot Boxing Day walk. People set off from the old school building at about 2pm and they arrived back at about 4pm, red faced, not too out of breath and with muddy boots and excited dogs. They then went on to the schoolhouse for a cup of tea and a chat.

Over the years my vision of what takes place has changed slightly, but my view is that it is good fun and nice for the fellowship of the village for events such as this to take place.

This year was quite a warm day, the ground was muddy as usual. The dogs were clean and bouncy as we set off on our walk. As a stranger in the group it is a bit daunting with all the English accents around you, however you do get used to it and people come up and have a chat.

We moved steadily towards Caen Hill, a walk of a couple of miles with lovely views of the countryside, the dogs getting dirtier. By the time we reached the Caen Hill locks I began to compare this walk with the ones I often take at home in Scotland. Our days are shorter at this time of year and a lot breezier as I live in a city by the sea. The air is different in Wiltshire, somewhat damper. There is not the sound of seagull or crashing waves. The horizon in Aberdeen is one of mountains and buildings. Boats hurry to and from the harbour. There is lots of hustle and bustle of people and cars. There seldom seems the time to slow down and enjoy the atmosphere as I do in Poulshot.

The Poulshot walk winds its way around the village and you begin to realise how beautiful it is and what, for me, has become part of my enjoyment in coming to visit each year. At the end the muddy dogs and people all agree that it was a good thing to do and those that can adjourn to Nora's house for tea and mince pies beside a roaring fire.

Alfie Dow, Xmas 2006

POULSHOT VILLAGE TRUST

There was an excellent turn-out at the first Village Trust meeting of 2007, some 20 members attending, confirming the increase in membership prompted at the Open Evening last November. **Mr Nicky Hunloke** was in the chair, **Mrs Diana Gravina** continued to hold the fort as Secretary and **Mr Brian James** is still Treasurer.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed, whereafter the follow-

become, to achieve our full potential. Change is part of our growth in every sense – for the fictitious penguin he convinced his community to develop in a new way – for change is about developing not to the selfish whim of others but to our full potential. Change, for a group of people or a relationship or an individual, is about development and growth.

Perhaps many of us could find time to pause like this for a 'stand & stare' moment, to allow one experience to lead us to other reflections and realisations. In that place of pausing and reflecting we may begin to sense the presence of God and so be led to see Him more clearly and find ways of knowing Him more deeply.

Revd Sacha Pearce

CHURCH SERVICES—FEBRUARY 2007 POULSHOT, SEEND AND BULKINGTON

4th February

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30am	Family Eucharist	BULKINGTON
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	SEEND
6.00pm	Evensong	POULSHOT

11th February

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30am	Matins	POULSHOT
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	SEEND
6.00pm	Evensong	BULKINGTON

18th February

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30am	Parish Eucharist	BULKINGTON
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	SEEND
6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion	POULSHOT

25th February

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30am	Family Eucharist	POULSHOT
11.15am	Family Eucharist	SEEND
6.00pm	Evensong	BULKINGTON

4th March

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	SEEND
9.30am	Family Eucharist	BULKINGTON
11.15am	Parish Eucharist	SEEND
6.00pm	Evensong	POULSHOT

If anyone would like to take up this offer, then please make contact with a PCC member a few days prior to the service and arrangements can be made.

FROM THE RECTOR

From where I stand...

...across life's rich canvas, along the landscape of our life's journey, change is part of our growth in every sense! Change is about development and growth, perhaps the realisation of a need in a community, or a deepening awareness in a relationship, but change should never be forced as a result of intolerance nor for someone else's purpose. During the early weeks of the New Year, with some mad friends, I went to see the animated film 'Happy Feet'. You may know that this is about a penguin called Mumbles born into a community of Emperor penguins on the Antarctic but Mumbles is different. The penguins are known for their singing and are each identified by the song that comes from their heart, their tune. Mumbles cannot sing but his rhythm is seen in his tap dancing! So he is an outcast and leaves a community while they are unable to catch enough fish because of fishing trawlers. However he is captured by humans and his keepers see he is different, release him back to the wild and follow him. With his return to his community he is able to convince them that the predator human *will* listen if the penguins dance like him. This is *so* different for them and the old guard struggle to see its worth. Yet with a whole colony of penguins tapping their feet the world hears their message and move fishing boundaries miles away from the ice and so the penguins have enough fish again. For this penguin community change was essential if they were to survive and grow. Yet by this realisation they grow within themselves by changing in their heart. From where I stand change is part of our growth too but when we love someone, or something, change is about development! At this time of year many millions of people think about love and celebrate the custom of sending cards to loved ones on St Valentine's Day. Legend has it that Valentine, a 3rd century Roman priest martyred for his faith, when in prison converted the jailer to Christianity by restoring his daughter's eyesight and when taken out for execution he left a message for her 'from your Valentine'. True love can be tested against the question of change. To love someone is **not** to want to change them to our own idea of who they should be, **not** to our way of living, but instead to celebrate and encourage him/her to blossom to become who they were made to be, to fulfil their potential, to be the best person that they can be. The Christian Church invites us to think about the love from God **not** in terms of changing our lives in order to comply with a fixed set of rules but to endeavour within ourselves, and encourage in others, that sense of developing and changing to be whom God has made us to

ing points were discussed:

Design Statement. Following the last meeting of the Parish Council, there will be a full explanation of this in the next *Poulshot Village News*, and villagers will be asked to respond to a short questionnaire (*see pages 9-12*). Subject to the response to those questions, the Parish Council will decide whether or not to take the process further. If the Council decide to proceed, there will be a requirement for a small team of volunteers from the community to gather data for inclusion in the statement. This will certainly require an input from the Trust. The assembly of any presentation will be carried out within the village and an experienced volunteer has offered his services for this.

Green Gardens. There were a number of reports, nearly all very positive, on the state of development of the Green Gardens Woodland. Work that needed continuing with includes hedge cutting when the ground is suitable for a tractor; strimming around the base of trees (**Mr George Underwood** was congratulated on his efforts in this respect) and the spraying of weeds. The Chairman agreed to arrange the cutting and the spraying. It was suggested that one or two of the taller trees might be given taller shelters or longer stakes to protect them from strong winds. The catch on one of the access gates to the area is broken and the Chairman will investigate the best form of replacement.

Approval was given to the planting of a tree (of a species compatible with others in the Woodland), in memory of former Poulshot resident, **Mr David Bowden**.

Tree Damage. **Mr Tim Nixon** will clear fallen trees from the corner of the Green Gardens Woodland, and also damaged and dangerous trees in the Hay Lane Plantation (in consultation with **Mr Tim Gravina**.)

Book of Trees. There is still plenty of space in the Book of Trees for details of new plantings, and destruction or deliberate felling of old trees. Details of trees that may have been missed in the original survey are still welcome, preferably with a photograph (indicating the site if possible) and stories that have not been forthcoming so far will also be of interest. Contact **Mrs Nora Dixon**, (828364) or **Mr John Quinn** (828501).

Events.

Poulshot Proms. Plans are afoot to repeat the Poulshot Proms this year, following the very successful evening in 2006. Date to be confirmed.

Tree Festival. It was suggested that there should be a Tree Festival in the Summer to include a guided Tree Walk, possibly led by **Mr Steve Russell**, who helped so much with the Green Gardens Woodland, a service in St Peter's Church which will be decorated appropriately and the Village Picnic in the Green Gardens. **Provisional** dates are:

Saturday 25th August. Tree Walk. It is to be hoped that those with trees that are of particular interest will allow access (controlled!) to their gardens for the Tree Walk.

Sunday 26 th August.	9.30am	Family Service
	Noon onwards	Village Picnic

Finance. Mr Brian James reported a healthy financial position with a total of approximately £3,500 either in the current account or on deposit.

Next Meeting. Monday 21st May – 7.30pm in the Village Hall – Annual General Meeting.

CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON IS

At the beginning of February the Church keeps the *Feast of Candlemas*. We remember when baby Jesus, 40 days after His birth, was taken to the Temple as the custom to present the first born child. The old priest Simeon, who waited all his life for the coming of the Messiah, held the new baby in his arms and realized that he had now seen Him. It was also the time, according to Jewish practice, of Mary's purification following the ancient tradition of the woman being 'unclean' after having her child. Generations later, and for many years, this was known as the 'churching' of women and was also a thanksgiving for her and her child. From the 4th century this whole feast was commemorated in Jerusalem by a procession of candles through the city.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on Wednesday 21st February, and from the early Church has been a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter. Originally it was for those who had turned away from the Church and now wanting to come back were publicly sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and kept apart until the start of Easter! By the 3rd century this period of time was preparation for those wishing to be baptized (or christened which means the same thing!) and this took 3 years of teaching and learning! Finally they were baptized at Easter. Luckily all that's changed! By the 10th century this was reduced to only 40 days before Easter and it is for everyone to take part by putting ashes, marking with the cross shape, on everyone's forehead. It is a time for all to make a greater effort to know God more, to set time aside to prepare for the Easter celebration.

The traditional popular idea of 'giving things up' for this time of Lent was meant to symbolize the harshness of the early forms of Lent preparations by a sort of clearing away from the comforts of our lives in order to see more clearly the focus of God. Today the Church invites us to use the time to do

something more, maybe help a friend, be kinder to a stranger, but also to study a little more of what the Christian faith has to offer!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For our Easter giving this year, the PCC agreed at their last meeting that money received from the Lent Boxes will be donated to a charity which helps the local farming community called 'Farm Crisis Network'. These boxes will be available from the back of Church from the first Sunday in Lent, February 25th.

On **Saturday 10th March** we will be holding a **Lent Lunch** in the Village Hall. Come along and have a bowl of delicious home made soup along with a chunky crust of bread. Donations for this gastronomic feast will be gratefully received and money donated will be shared between St. Peter's Church and 'Farm Crisis Network'.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting will take place in Church on **Wednesday 25th April** at 7.00 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to come along and hear what has been happening over the past year in the life of St Peter's, and an opportunity, if you should wish, to involve yourself in the life of the Church in the coming year.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year the Church Electoral Roll is to undergo its periodic complete revision. The Current roll will be invalid with effect from **March 31st 2007** and a new roll will come into force from **April 1st 2007**. (NO NAMES WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY CARRIED FORWARD)

If you wish to be on the new roll then you must complete an enrolment form and return it by **March 31st**. Enrolment forms will be available from the table at the back of Church and can be returned there or given direct to **Brian James**.

Being a member of the Electoral Roll allows you to stand for election to the PCC and to use your vote in the election of PCC members, Churchwardens and Sidesmen, which takes place at each Annual Parish Church Meeting. Anyone living in the village is eligible for the roll providing they are a baptised member of the Church and aged 16 or over.

BENEFICE SERVICES

As part of a normal pattern of services in the Benefice, when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, there is only one service at 10.00 a.m., in one of our three Churches in rotation. At a recent Poulshot PCC meeting, it was suggested that PCC members would be prepared to offer a lift to any member of the congregation if they wished to attend either Bulkington or Seend when it is their turn to host the Service.