



Lartington Parish Council Winter Newsletter



Have you had a problem with Prescription Delivery?

The Parish Council was very concerned to hear of an incident whereby a local resident was left without much needed medicines because of the absence of a rapid-response medicine delivery service earlier this year. Prescribed antibiotics for a serious condition, a local resident was unable to obtain much-needed medicines until family members returned from holiday - fortunately only 24 hours later.

Apparently only Boots routinely deliver in the village - and then only on Tuesday and Thursday. Since this issue was drawn to our attention, we have been made aware of other similar incidents and we would like to know if others have been affected. Whilst we don't expect the number of incidents to be great, the absence of a prompt delivery service may be a serious danger to a few. We have raised the matter with David Kinch, Chair of Teasdale Action Partnership, who is exploring whether there is any way in which this organisa-

tion can help and will work with him to try to find a solution.

In the meantime, if a local resident really does have a problem obtaining medicine's following a home visit, then we hope that they will seek neighbourly assistance and are confident that it will be forthcoming. Indeed, we hope that it goes without saying that this would apply in any situation in which some of our more elderly residents find themselves in need of help in the forthcoming winter months.



COMMUNITY Speedwatch Update - Can YOU help?

Now in possession of our own equipment, courtesy of Durham Police, Council

members have begun to conduct Speedwatch exercises at the times we are most concerned about.

The damage caused should a speeding vehicle be involved in an accident whilst children are accessing school transport could be immeasurable for all concerned.

We are also concerned that drivers of tractors and lorries are not always as considerate as they should be.

What has been really encouraging is the positive way in which some drivers have responded to our volunteers. Indeed, we have been asked how other communities can access the equipment and have already passed this information to one other council.

This is, however, **COMMUNITY Speedwatch**, not **COUNCIL Speedwatch**, and we would welcome assistance from anyone who has an hour to spare.

The equipment is very straightforward to use and the role of Speedwatch is to educate and encourage drivers to travel at the correct speed, not enforcement or punishment. Durham Police will take responsibility for issuing a warning letter to those observed travelling in excess of the speed limit but this will not involve either a financial or points penalty. If you can help, please contact Sharon Parsons Munn (Chair) or Eric Crawford (Speedwatch Co-ordinator).

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

will be held on

January 9th

March 13th

May 8th (APM - 7.00pm)

**The Methodist Hall
Cotherstone
7.30pm**

Local Electors are always welcome to attend

Agendas and minutes are placed on the noticeboard and are also available online at lartingtonpc.gov.uk.

Lartington is a safe place in which to live and we want to keep it that way.

Incidents of burglary may be low but when they occur they cause an inconvenience and distress which often goes way beyond the material value of the property involved.

The most recent incidents have usually involved sheds and outhouses so please take particular care to ensure these are locked and that security lights are operating properly. It won't stop a determined burglar but we don't want to make it easy for them. It's also a good idea to let neighbours know if you are likely to be away.

We advertised the "Keep in the Know" initiative in the last edition and would remind residents that it is a means by which local police can keep people informed of what is going on (and, sometimes, wrong) in the area. Visit www.keepintheknow.co.uk to register and to identify the area and themes in which you are most interested.



Another reminder from the last issue - although it probably only applies to those living in isolated situations. If your broadband speed is below 2Mb per second you

may be able to get a subsidy of £350 towards the cost of the installation of equipment to improve it - check your speed on www.dslchecker.bt.com. If you think you might qualify then contact Digital Durham - www.digitaldurham.org.



Too small to provide any service ourselves, the Parish Council has an important "eyes and ears" role on behalf of Durham County Council and often liaises with DCC on behalf of residents - albeit with mixed success!

We routinely report highway, footpath and street lighting problems as we become aware of them and

make representations on planning applications and other issues when appropriate.

When problems such as a deep pothole or a blocked drain are drawn to our attention, we do notify DCC of the issue and follow it up if necessary.

Residents might not be aware, however, that the County Council's website does have a mechanism whereby an issue such as this can be reported directly to them by any concerned resident. Indeed "My Durham" contains a lot of pertinent information - such as information about rubbish collection, and recycling, local schools, health and leisure provision. Entering your postcode address will also allow you to find contact details for your local MP and County Councillor together with Registers of Interest of your Parish Councillors - although these are also available on our own website.

If you haven't previously looked at them then you might find www.durham.gov.uk/mydurham and www.doitonline.durham.gov.uk both interesting and useful.

Our own website remains lartingtonpc.co.uk.



Finally, a good news storyand thankfully it never came to this!

.....but flooding has been a real issue for a small number of residents on Lartington Green Lane.

We have worked really hard to persuade DCC that repairs and improvements to field drainage, road gutters and gullies and water conduits needed to be undertaken to sort out the problem once and for all.

We are pleased to report, therefore, that some corrective work has already been done and a £40k programme of works just above the Green should be started and completed before Christmas.

We are grateful to Cllr. Richard Bell for his support, to Mr and Mrs Oliver for allowing work to be undertaken on their land, to DCC staff and contractors for their efforts and to local residents for their fortitude and forbearance.

Merry Christmas