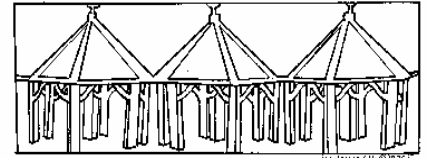


# ***THE BROMLEY***

## ***BULLETIN.....***



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### ***Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2003 Number 20***

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#### **Speed Checks**

**The Parish Council has received complaints from residents about excessive speed along the main street. They have experienced damage to vehicles and near misses with the potential for serious personal injury. The police have therefore been requested to carry out speed checks in the village. Residents may wish to note this fact and help set a good example by observing the 30mph restriction, keeping themselves safer and potentially avoiding the expense of a fine.**

#### **Surveys – your views count**

You either love them or hate them - but either way they play an important part in local planning. Two are coming along close together this year with the Borough Housing Needs Survey in early February and the Vital Villages questionnaire in March. The first of these is only going to a small number of homes in the parish, but is part of a periodic exercise to assess present and future housing needs. The Vital Villages questionnaire will go to all homes during March and is a key element in ensuring that the resulting Village Plan and projects reflect the views and needs of ALL the village, and not just the most vocal minority. Both surveys are important and the results will only be as good as your contribution.

#### **RISES**

Recycling Incentives Scheme in East Staffordshire (RISES) is a new initiative from East Staffordshire Borough Council intended to increase the proportion of our domestic waste that gets recycled. £240 was raised in the first half year of the scheme and suggestions of local groups to receive grants can be made to committee members – Linda Fox, Fiona Kirby, Michelle Moore and Frank Robertson. The level of money received is directly linked to the amount we recycle through the bins in the Crown car park.

#### **Postal Addresses**

Would you like your postal address to include “Abbots Bromley” rather than just “Rugeley”? There is a code of practice under which villages can – with the support of over 50% of residents – have the postal addressing amended to include the village name. If anyone is interested in starting a campaign on behalf of the village, please ask the Clerk for further information.

#### **Elections**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May there are local elections for both the Parish and Borough Councils. For the first time this year, the election will be based entirely on postal voting.

If you would like more information on becoming a Parish Councillor, contact the Clerk, Eric Roy on 840153. Further details will be available in the official election notice which will be posted on the Butter Cross notice board later this month. Nomination papers need to be submitted between 4<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Elected Councillors will be expected, as previously, to hold office for four years.

#### **Best Kept Village 2003**

Having won the best large village category in the East Staffordshire area for the past two years, the Parish Council has again sponsored an entry. One of the judges’ comments in 2002 was that the village displayed “a strong sense of community”, and we hope that this quality will again provide the basis for success.

Judging commences on 1<sup>st</sup> May, with the village being visited in May and June. Judging of finals takes place in July, for completion by 25<sup>th</sup> July.

## OFSTED Report

The Richard Clarke First School has received an outstanding OFSTED report for October 2002. Headteacher Mrs Pam Potter issued the following statement:-

"I am delighted to issue The Summary Report of our recent 2002 OFSTED inspection. The previous 1998 inspection was a good one and it was difficult to say how we might improve on it. However, the staff and the Governors are delighted with this, 2002, very good report which shows that the school has made good progress since 1998.

The OFSTED inspection has found that:- *"Richard Clarke First School is very effective. Academic standards are good, with very powerful contributions from science, geography and history, because very good teaching engenders a strong spirit of enquiry in the pupils. Excellent relationships are at the heart of the pupils' very good personal development. Very good leadership, underpinned by equally good management practice is supported by an outstanding governing body. The school gives good value for money"*.

We at Richard Clarke strongly believe that effective teamwork and our positive working partnerships are the keys to our success. We would like to sincerely thank all those involved in our achievement."

The favourite quote from the Full OFSTED report is :

*"Richard Clarke First School is a very happy place, and pupils, staff and visitors enjoy being there."*

## The Future of the Post Office Network

The general feeling of delegates present at a meeting held in December was one of extreme concern for the future of the existing sub-Post Office system. Rural Post Offices are those that can cover an area of up to 10,000 people and these are guaranteed until 2006. However it is estimated that there will be 3,000 fewer urban offices in three year's time.

The manner of payment of pensions is due to change, spread over 2 years from April 2003. David Kidney MP stressed that he had been assured by the minister responsible that there would be freedom of choice for payments, either into bank/building society accounts or by a Post Office card account (POCA) which would enable people still to get cash at Post Offices. However it appears that the DSS are not publicising the second choice at present.

Mr. Kidney MP has stated that he is taking up various points with the appropriate departments and will be raising the issues in Parliament. He is also keeping all other Staffordshire MP's informed, all of whom were supportive of his initiative.

## S.O.S. (Support Our Shops)

Recent issues of this Newsletter have attempted to stress the importance of supporting our Post Office and remaining village shops. Effects of the rain, snow and ice of the winter months emphasise the extent to which, in particular, the elderly and ailing members of our community rely on these lifelines. No matter how small in value your purchases are, please give our local tradespeople your support, thereby guaranteeing their continued service in Abbots Bromley.

## Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all local authorities are required to catalogue the material that is available to the public in a "publication scheme". Abbots Bromley Parish Council has reviewed its obligations under the new law, and a scheme will be published at the start of March describing the available material. The document describing the scheme will be available on the village web site, or a paper copy can be requested from the Clerk.

## Dates for your Diary

Parish Assembly on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

"Rough Crossing" a Tom Stoppard play performed by the Abbots Bromley Players at the Village Hall, Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th May.

Abbots Bromley Show on Saturday 21st June.

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**Clerk to the Parish Council - Eric Roy 840153.**

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