

# WEST HADDLESEY NEWS

(THIS TIME IT'S PARTLY ABOUT DOG'S MUCK AND LAMPOSTS)

THE SPORADIC AND INFREQUENT NEWSLETTER FOR WEST HADDLESEY PARISH

Issue no. 5

December 2012

## Santa Claus is coming

We have managed to line up another visit from Father Christmas, who has agreed to stop by the pub on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, at 6.00pm to turn on the village's Christmas Tree lights and say hello to the children.

Meeting Father Christmas, and receiving a small present from him, is free for children who live in the village, but we would ask for a contribution of £2 for each child (be it a friend, or grand-child) from outside the village who comes to meet him.

Please could you let Nikki or Giles (contact details on the back) if your children would like to come.

## Lamp-posts

One of the committee's areas of responsibility is the maintenance of lamp-posts in the village, and with the long nights now firmly here, it's important that these are all working.

Because of the costs of a one-off call out fee, we generally wait for three lights – but we have linked with Chapel Haddlesey, so the three lights can be spread between some of ours and some of theirs to ensure a faster response.

Two have just been fixed, and at the time of writing (18<sup>th</sup> November) we believe that all streetlights in the village are working properly, bar one which we're working on!

We will be putting in place a way of reporting broken street-lights on the website, but in the meantime please phone any member of the committee if you notice that one is out – don't assume we've spotted it, as we may not have!

## Renewable heating

British Gas's Renewable Heating Team, which offers low carbon heating alternatives to fossil fuels – in particular air source heat pumps – is having an informal open evening at The George and Dragon on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 pm.

The aim of the evening is to provide information about the alternatives to traditional oil-based heating, and to highlight funding discounts available from now until the end of the year which reduce the typical price of an air source heat pump by 45%, bringing it down from an average of around £8,500 - £9,500 to £4,500 - £5,500.

At least one house in the parish has recently benefited from this discount when changing to an air source heat pump, and in the era of ever-rising oil prices we imagine that it may be of interest to many more, so pop down to the open evening if you're interested in finding out more.

## Medieval Fayre

The Medieval Fayre which was held in the village in September was blessed with good weather and was a resounding success.

A grand total of £2,452 was raised for Martin House Hospice, which is a fantastic sum for a small village, and a big thank you to all those who took part in organising the fete for your hard work in making the whole event such a success.

## Dogs' muck

Sorry to shout, but dog owners, please...**PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**

This is one of those things which we're surprised to actually have to bring up – but it seems that it's becoming more of a problem because in recent months we have received a large number of complaints about the state of paths and pavements.

The towpath has recently been made much more accessible with the improvement work undertaken on the initial 100 metres or so, but as a result it's being used more and more by dog walkers and is frequently littered with dogs' mess, a large percentage of which will be from dogs belonging to village residents. Likewise the bridleway which runs north from Main Street near the pub is frequently in a pretty revolting state too, and unlike the towpath the users of the bridleway will almost certainly all be village residents.

Dog owners have a responsibility to pick up after their dogs in all public places – not just within the village, but on the towpath by the canal, and along the bridleway and the smaller paths which lead off it, so make sure you do. If you see someone not picking up, then either have a word with them, ask one of the committee to have a word with them, or report to them to Dog Warden by phone on 292123, or on an online form accessible via Selby District Council's website. There has already been one prosecution of a village resident for not picking up after their dog, and if things don't improve considerably, there will doubtless be more.

## Parish Meeting

The second of the year's two main parish meetings will be held at 8.00 in the George and Dragon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We'll be dealing with the appointments and resignation of committee members, as well as any other issues affecting life in the parish which anyone wishes to come along and discuss – so please do drop in.

## Grass cutting and maintenance

We have made arrangements to take the management of grass-cutting in the village back from North Yorkshire County Council (who currently do it pretty sporadically) and sort it in-house.

We have therefore put in place a local contractor, starting in spring of next year, to cut the playpark, and various verges throughout the village, on a regular fortnightly basis. Whilst this won't result in a costs saving, it will hopefully result in improvements in how the village looks, as previously we have had no control over if / when NYCC's contractors would come, so the grass would sometimes go weeks and weeks between a cut. With a bit of luck, those days will be behind us!

## The committee

Up until the next meeting (10<sup>th</sup> December) the committee currently consists of :

**Glen Williams** – Chairman

*glen@westhaddlesey.org.uk / 07816 572222*

**Robert Wood** – Vice-chairman

*robert@westhaddlesey.org.uk / 07712 043630*

**Mark Asquith** – Treasurer

*mark@westhaddlesey.org.uk*

**Nikki Keep** – Secretary

*nikki@westhaddlesey.org.uk*

**Giles Bennett** – Clerk

*giles@westhaddlesey.org.uk / 07766 687658*

If you are interested in helping out then why not get in touch, or just come along to our next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December (details above).