

WEST HADDLESEY NEWS

THE SPORADIC AND INFREQUENT NEWSLETTER FOR WEST HADDLESEY PARISH

(WITH ADDED EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "SPORADIC")

Issue no. 3

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Tracking software for laptops and mobiles

Given the attractiveness of smartphones and laptops to thieves, you might want to consider investing in one of a number of cheap, but useful, pieces of software which sit undetected on your laptop or smartphone until you activate them (over the internet) if the item has been stolen.

Once activated they regularly (and silently) report their location, helping the police to track down. More advanced pieces of software can also use built-in cameras to take photos of the person using the computer, as well as taking screenshots of what they're doing on the computer – these are then uploaded to a website which you can access, and can be used to track down and prosecute the thief (or thieves).

There are a number of solutions laptops and / or and smartphone – worth investigating are Prey (www.preyproject.com) or GadgetTrak (www.gadgettrak.com). For Macs we recommend Undercover by Orbicule (www.orbicule.com/undercover) which works for Macs, iPads and iPhones. Alternatives include Hidden (www.hiddenapp.com) or Prey (see paragraph above).

If you're a Mac user we'd also advise that you put in place a firmware password (under Utilities on the Mac OS X installation disc). This will ensure that a password is need to boot up the computer from any source other than its internal hard drive, thus making it substantially more difficult to circumvent any tracking software installed.

Parish Meeting bits and bobs

The next Parish Meeting is one of our two full meetings, to which everyone is invited – it will be held at 8.00 on 14th November, at The George and Dragon.

We have having informal discussions with Chapel Haddlesey Parish Council over areas where our two parishes can co-operate either to save money, to get a more efficient service, or on areas of mutual concern such as traffic and speeding issues. One of the first areas we're exploring is saving money on street lighting repairs (see the box at the top right hand side of the back page) – we'll keep you posted on any other areas where joining forces can be productive and beneficial to both.

If you need to get in touch with any of the committee at any time you'll find contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

Thefts

There has been a spate of thefts in the village and adjoining villages, including burglaries, thefts from outbuildings, and the theft of metal items such as drain covers.

North Yorkshire Police using a community messaging system to issue alerts and warnings, and requests for people to be on the lookout – messages can be sent by text, email or voice message. To sign up to receive the messages visit the organisation's website, which is www.nypcommunitymessaging.org and you can apply online. Alternatively get in touch with any member of the committee who will be happy to help further. The more people who get the messages the better the chance of stopping offenders.

If you have anything you want covered in the next issue of the newsletter (whenever that may be) then drop any member of the committee a line, or email newsletter@westhaddlesey.org.uk.

Village events

A number of events are being planned in the village over the coming months. After his very successful visit last year, we have asked Santa to drop by again to turn on the village Christmas Lights, and he's pencilled in the evening of Saturday 4th December. When his elves let us know that's a confirmed date we'll send formal invitations to all the children in the village to come and meet him and receive a small present.

There are also plans afoot to hold a Summer Gala next year, to raise money for village funds. More details will follow.

Dogs' mess

Dogs fouling public areas (including pavements through the village) remains an issue, and we remind dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after their animals.

This isn't just the case in populated areas, but in any public area, so includes on footpaths and bridleways. Just because it's out in the countryside doesn't mean it can be left there, so clean it up. Offenders, if identified, can and will be reported to the Dog Warden.

Play park

As it has been over ten years since the Play Park was first created, it has been decided that it would be a good point in time to give it a bit of a refresh.

Arrangements have therefore been made for it to be given a complete refurbishment – including the repainting of the metal railings, and the fixing of a few areas where the wood condition is starting to deteriorate. The work should be done in September, and parts of the park may be off limits whilst underway.

We are also investigating the costs of replacing the grass playing pitch with an all-weather pitch for various sports, and will keep you posted on how plans develop in this regard.

Street lighting

One area of our responsibility is ensuring that the streetlights in the village are all regularly maintained and replaced if out.

As we pay a call out charge on top of a fee for each light-bulb replaced, it's most cost effective to wait until several lights need replacing at the same time.

Our present contract has come to an end and we're investigating joining forces with Chapel Haddlesey and co-ordinating service calls with them – this would mean that broken light-bulbs would get replaced quicker than they do at present, as we wouldn't have to wait as long for it to be viable to request a call out.

We do still need to be informed when light-bulbs aren't working, so if you know of one near you then please let any member of the committee know – contact details are below – and don't just assume that someone already knows about it. This is especially the case now that nights are starting to draw in.

The committee

The committee currently consists of :

Glen Williams – Chairman

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Robert Wood – Vice-chairman

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Mark Asquith – Treasurer

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Nikki Keep – Secretary

nikki@westhaddlesey.org.uk

Giles Bennett – Clerk

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If you are interested in helping out then why not get in touch and come along to our next meeting – we won't bite, unless you forget to bring a bottle of wine along with you, as meetings are always pretty relaxed affairs!