

**Firbeck
Letwell
And
Gildingwells**

FLAG
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GLITZY LAUNCH FOR DE-FIB APPEAL

Fund raisers at Letwell are following Firbeck's lead with a project underway to install a defibrillator in the village.

Members of the village hall committee are launching the appeal with a Cabaret evening titled For One Night Only with volunteers performing hits from across the ages dressed in glitzy, glamorous style

Rehearsals for the event - which takes place at the hall on Saturday April 26th - were reaching a climax as FLAG went to press. South Yorkshire ambulance service co-ordinator Emma Scott, who was involved in the scheme at Firbeck, will be a guest of honour at the show.



Enthusiastic organiser Rita Harrison urged villagers to rally round the campaign even if they can't make it to the show.

Rita told FLAG: "Ticket sales have gone really well, and we've only got half a dozen left now, but I'm hoping that people will buy raffle tickets anyway even if they're not able to come.

"We've got some fantastic prizes. The winner gets a brand new mini for the weekend, and there's a car valet worth £45, a free MOT, a £40 beauty voucher, and even a pie and pea supper for six people.

"Everyone will benefit from the cause. If it saves one life then it's worth all the effort."

The committee are aiming to raise around £1200 in total with support from the parish council.

No decision has yet been taken about a site for the defibrillator, but the exterior side wall of the village hall has emerged as one possibility.

*Raffle tickets - priced at £5 a strip - are available from Rita on 01909 731278.

FIFTY BACK BLACK LION PLAN

Black Lion landlord Phil Rogers has paid tribute to the support of villagers as the deadline approaches for his planning appeal to demolish the restaurant and use the land and part of the car park to build three houses

The planning inspector is due to visit the pub on April 29th. A final decision will be announced around the middle of May.

Phil says he's been greatly heartened by the response from the village. "Fifty letters of support have gone into the inspectorate and there's only five objections. It's a fantastic response, and I'm very grateful to everyone who's backed me."

SKYLARKS A PLENTY

As Spring arrives David Wright keeps FLAG up to date with the latest edition of Nature Report.....

Once again I've no new species to report for the area. I recently compiled a list of all the birds I've seen or heard in the Flag area since moving to Firbeck 20 years ago, and it totals 120, so the chances of something new become less likely.

There are a few species that could occur in the local area that I've not reported on, but I need to be in the right place at the right time. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker may still be present, although I'm unaware of any sightings in recent years. Hawfinch has occurred in the past. Crossbill and Willow Tit are possibilities. Golden Plover occur locally, but don't seem to stray into the FLAG area. A rare duck or grebe might occur at Langold Lake. A rare species of goose, or an Osprey or Raven might pass overhead. Merlin or Goshawk might pop up.

Nuthatch has been in short supply over the winter. A Firbeck couple have kept a garden record for many years, in which Nuthatch has always featured, but not over the last winter.

On the plus side, Skylark have been present at Firbeck airfield throughout the winter, which is excellent. Good-sized parties of Pied Wagtail and Tree Sparrow have also occurred, and the game maize has attracted large numbers of finches, plus Reed Bunting. Grey Wagtail seem to be on the increase. A gentleman who is out and about most days tells me he has seen parties of Pink Footed Goose flying overhead. Another gentleman tells me of a Moorhen displaying unusual markings, but I've not managed to find it.

I want to mention the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), an important charitable body that researches the habitat, population and movement of birds, etc. It is currently running several appeals – all deserving of support - relating to Cuckoos, Garden Birdwatch, House Martins, etc., and the one that particularly appeals to me is the Changing Times appeal. BTO is researching the reasons behind the decline of some species and the success of others. Any of these appeals can be supported by a single donation or regular monthly gift.

David Wright 01709 813360 davidandgwenneth@gmail.com

SLEEPLESS NIGHT FOR HENRY

Letwell teenager Henry Parkinson, who is an air cadet with 2008 Bawtry ATC, had a well-deserved rest coming after enduring a sponsored Stay- Awake for Sport Relief recently.

Henry and the other cadets undertook a variety of energising activities throughout the day, whilst steadfastly not falling asleep - all in a good cause of course.

Some of our readers might recall Henry taking full advantage of a captive audience at the recent Letwell Quiz Night to drum up sponsorship - something that undoubtedly paid off, as he also won the prize for raising the most money, an very impressive £125.

Suitably recovered, Henry is pictured holding his prize certificate. He also received an iTunes gift voucher.

Well done to him and all the other cadets.



Henry's ready for a nap

A FULL HOUSE FOR THE WINTERFEST REVIVAL

Traditionally Firbeck Winterfest at St Martin's Church took the form of a brass band concert. But after a one year sabbatical, and thanks to a subsidy from the Firbeck Village Hall Management Committee, the concert came back in February.

The usual brass band was exchanged for a chamber orchestra from the Hallam Sinfonia. The programme was designed to appeal to all ages and the Church was almost full with a crowd of over a hundred people.

Starting with a rendition of the Dambusters March, one Firbeck resident commented afterwards that the piece made the hairs stand up on the back of his neck with patriotic pride. Next was Gabriel's Oboe, the main theme from the 1986 film the Mission.

Finally, and for the main billing, was a full narrated version of Peter and the Wolf. This timeless composition was a great treat for the younger attendees and also provided a great sense of nostalgia for those who hadn't heard it for decades. The front two pews were reserved for the children, who afterwards were invited up to the altar to examine the instruments and try the drums.

The Sinfonia played beautifully and agreed to the possibility of returning to Firbeck in 2015.

Jody Beighton

NEW LIFE FOR FIRBECK TELEPHONE BOX

I am setting up a seed exchange in the old telephone box in Firbeck. This would involve residents donating any surplus seeds they don't need which could then be taken and used by someone else. The telephone box is owned by the Parish Council and at their meeting on April 9 they agreed to this scheme going ahead. I will keep a regular tidy eye on the contents! The telephone box is in need of some tender loving care as its paintwork (particularly on the inside) requires attention. The Council have agreed to get some quotes to complete this work which they will discuss at the



Can You Help?

I suggest we fit an old book case inside. Does anybody have one (no bigger than 2' 6"/76cm wide, 5'152cm high and 9"/23cm deep), plus can anyone help to install it safely? Please put any surplus seeds you have (labelled) in the temporary basket in the phone box.

Children's Gardening Artwork

It would be great to dress up the telephone box with pictures, paintings or any artwork by children in the village. These could be displayed on the bigger windows and should measure no more than 39 x 19 cm.

Please contact me with any ideas or offers of help by email:

wendyhamiltonbarkley@hotmail.com

or at the book swap in Firbeck Village Hall on a Monday morning.

Thank you.

STOLEN TO ORDER

Thieves made off with John Roebuck's Land Rover Discovery after slipping into the house at 2.30 in the morning to steal the ignition keys from the kitchen.

The dad of two was upstairs working on his computer when the intruder got into the semi on New Road in Firbeck through an unlocked back door. The family pet - a Doberman - was downstairs inside a cage in the utility room, but didn't kick up a fuss.

John moved to Firbeck from Thurgroft two months ago believing it was a safer environment for his wife and young children.

But the experience hasn't shaken his faith in village life.

"We moved to Firbeck because it was a safer environment and much better for the children. It's a really nice community, and having the Land Rover stolen like this hasn't changed my view.

"We love it here, we love the peace and quiet, and we'll be staying in spite of what's happened.

"I work from home, and I was upstairs on the computer when the thief got in. The back door was unlocked, and he's come into the kitchen, and taken the keys to the Land Rover which was parked on the drive."

John thinks the vehicle was driven off later sometime after 3 am.

He told FLAG: "It was a Land Rover Discovery 3, and the CID believe it was probably stolen to order ready to be fitted with new plates.

"I think people should know about what happened. That way you can be more vigilant...."

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF FIRBECK HALL

Following the response to the Firbeck Hall redevelopment scheme - the subject of the Back Lion presentation last July - a revised scheme has now been submitted in its place. It is substantially changed from the original which featured some 36 dwellings to the rear of the Hall. In this new scheme just 6 large dwellings replace the 36.

Similarly the stable block, originally destined for conversion into 8 apartments, will now be transformed into a single dwelling. As was planned previously, there will be another substantial dwelling constructed in the walled garden.

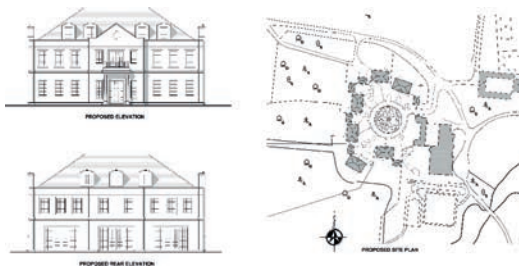
It is now intended that Firbeck Hall itself will be transformed into just 2 houses although the original option for 21 apartments, or some interim number, will remain.

A pre-planning application was submitted to RMBC Planning some time ago and there appears to have been general approval for the new revised scheme. Various and necessary procedures are currently in hand prior to the submission of a full Planning Application.

We also understand that, following unforeseen delays, work should commence shortly on the conversion and extension of West Lodge. This project will also include a new main entrance feature with ornamental gates.

Anyone with an interest in any aspect of Firbeck Hall is invited to join Friends of Firbeck Hall. Subscription is only £1.00. Contact our Membership Secretary, telephone 01909 732191 or email friends@firbeckhall.net Visit our website at www.firbeckhall.net

Sid Ellis



Firbeck Hall development scheme

A GREAT NIGHT OUT - FOR A FIVER

Mexborough's multi talented Male Voice Choir return to Letwell next month to perform a spring concert featuring a varied programme ranging from classical opera to hits from the heyday of pop and rock and roll.

Atmospheric St. Peter's Church is the setting for the show on the evening of Friday May 2nd. The event starts at 7.30 pm.

Last year's visit proved a big success - as did the choir's debut at Letwell in 2012. Organisers are promising lots of musical surprises this time round, and there's a complimentary drink offered free with every ticket priced at a mere £5. Children pay just £3. A great night out for next to nothing!

Proceeds from the event are in aid of Letwell Street Fayre.

Contact Robin France and Steve Woodward for tickets on 01909 730351 or 732729.

WATCH HIM GO!

Letwell cycling champ James Hall has made his mark on the Internet - as the fastest man to climb the hill from Penny Hill to Leys Lane on two wheels.

The super fit dad of two recorded a time of 59 seconds for the half mile climb, beating famous professional race cyclist Russ Downing, who comes from Thurcroft, to top the charts.

FLAG struggles to keep pace with the techno world - probably along with most of our readers!! - but the record has been recognised by Strava, which in case you didn't know charts something called GPS "run and ride best time segments" all over the country.

James has been pedalling seriously for some time. Last year he completed a sponsored 160 mile coast to coast ride from Seascale in Cumbria to Whitby in just ONE DAY. In the process he raised £1300 for the Willow School at Thurcroft, where son Tom is a pupil.

James had intended to ride back to Letwell from Whitby the day after the marathon ride, but his chain snapped as he left the seaside town so he had to abandon the attempt, and travel home by car. James was really disappointed, but FLAG feels tired just writing about it!

Suffice to say, James will be cheering on from the sidelines when the Tour de France makes its first ever visit to Yorkshire this summer. But he's taking his bike along as well, and plans to ride the first stage - which runs 190 km from Leeds to Harrogate - the day before the race comes to town on July 5th.

In the meantime he keeps fit riding to work - in Leeds.

James says: "It's 47 miles from Letwell, and it takes me about two and a half hours....." Wow!!



Cyclist James - ready for the road

EVEN THE DUCK'S HAPPY NOW

FLAG salutes long-time Letwell residents Jack and Doreen Bussey, who have spent the last few months transforming the overgrown village pond into a attractive wildlife haven.

Son Carl set to work initially with his parents clearing the mass of brambles and unsightly tree stumps with a chain saw. The farming crew from South Farm then weighed in hauling a huge fallen tree trunk from the muddy water with a tractor.

Jack and Doreen have toiled day after day on their hands and knees removing weeds and mountains of debris from the site next to their home on Barker Hades Road. Donning a pair of waders and roped to her husband for safety's sake Doreen ventured into the middle of the pond time after time to extract even more rubbish. The banks of the pond have now been terraced with logs and stone in readiness for planting.

Doreen says she's enjoyed the challenge. She told FLAG: "The pond was looking a real mess, and it was time something was done.

"We've worked there most nights, it's not been easy, but we've actually enjoyed doing it.

"We're going to lay down a plastic membrane to keep down the weeds before we plant up the area with pots. It should look really attractive once we've finished.

"Everyone's been very supportive. Even the duck seems a lot happier now..."

Letwell Parish Council has promised to help finance the initiative. A spokesman said: "It's the very least we could do. Jack and Doreen have done a wonderful job.



Jack and Doreen at work

SUE'S HOME FROM HOSPITAL

The latest dinner aimed at rallying support for Black Lion landlord Phil Rogers was postponed after his wife Sue was rushed into hospital with three fractures in her spine.

The popular landlady - who suffers from osteoporosis - was back home as FLAG went to press after spending a week in hospital.

Phil says the dinners - organised by Julia Colver and other volunteers - have been greatly appreciated by the couple.

"I'd like to thank everyone for supporting the dinners and the pub. The planning issue has brought out the best in the village.

"Sue's back home now. There's nothing the doctors can do till they find out what the damage is to her bones."

BIG STEVE AND CLUMPY BUMBLE FOOT GET A MAKEOVER

Two chickens have undergone a name change after moving addresses - from Firbeck to Letwell.

Jenny Straw didn't get egg-cited - we couldn't resist it!! - when she found out the pair were called Big Steve and Clumpy Bumble Foot.

The parish councillor and WI official explained: "I loved the chickens straight away, and I was looking forward to the idea of getting really fresh eggs, but I wasn't that sure about the names.

"I mean Big Steve and Clumpy Bumble Foot didn't seem right for two chickens so I'm calling them Henrietta and Bumble now. They've not laid any eggs yet but I'm hoping for some really big ones..."

MORE GREAT MUSIC TO COME

Live music continues to thrive at Letwell Village Hall with a distinctive new band and a pair of much-loved favourites returning in the next few months.

Alternative folk quartet 4Square were appearing just as FLAG went to press on April 18th. Founded in Manchester seven years ago the band came with a rich pedigree having shared the stage at various times with major figures such as Fairport Convention, Steve Winwood, Joe Brown and Richard Thompson. The spectacular clog dancing was billed as an added bonus.

Merseyside band Elbow Jane arrive for a long-awaited return visit on Saturday May 17th. The band, likened by some to Crosby, Stills and Nash and Crowded House with a dash of Paul Simon and James Taylor, line up with bouzouki, mandolin, guitar, keyboards and percussion with great vocal harmonies thrown in for good measure.

Acoustic magazine's Songwriter of the Year Joe Topping and Young Performer of the Year Richard Woods head the band - which has built up a big following with appearances on Radio 2 and at the prestigious Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow. Try not to miss the show. One party - who have already booked - are travelling all the way from Warrington to be there.

A summer tradition continues with Sheffield's highly acclaimed Boy On A Dolphin, who packed the City Hall last Christmas, playing two consecutive nights on Wednesday and Thursday July 2nd and 3rd.

The band, headed by vocalist songwriter John Reilly, count Letwell as one of their favourite venues. In fact, John says it's the place he loves the most - and that's something of a plaudit given the quality of John's music and the band's reputation.

If you're interested in coming along please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are available from Martyn and Andy on 01909 731626 or 540694.



Elbow Jane

ANN STEAKS A CLAIM TO FAME

Ann Wright - well known to FLAG readers as queen of the catering world and maker of fantastic pie and peas - has won a Bassetlaw business award as independent retailer of the year.

Ann sends her thanks to everyone at Firbeck and Letwell, who took part and cast a vote in the poll.

Sadly, the organisers made a hash of engraving the winning plaque marking it W and M Bakery instead of Wright's Bakers. But either way Ann's still a happy girl. Expect a crest on the pies next time round.

LOTS TO DO WITH FIRBECK-CUM-LETWELL W I

We started off our year with a fabulous Caribbean Evening party in January and all members and guests really got into the spirit of it by enjoying the steel band and sampling the Caribbean-style food provided and dressing in style! It certainly chased away any gloomy winter blues!

We have now completed our programme for the coming year and we start with Mr. Doug Bradbury telling us about his work and funny moments of his Life as a Farrier in April.

In May it is our resolution meeting which we will no doubt discuss with vigour! Also in May we are having a Walk/Treasure Hunt in Firbeck Village. This will start at 10.15 at the Village Hall followed by lunch in the Village Hall – and all at a cost of £6. If anyone is interested please call the Secretary for more information. Should be a bit of fun! We are also off on a trip to Eyam Hall with the Chantry Group in May. Quite a busy month.

We have had a couple craft workshops which included making a variety of scones and also making recycled bags out of old fabrics, and we intend to hold more workshops throughout the year.

We have arranged to go on a guided tour round

Throapham Old Church (with refreshments!) in June and in July, something to make our eyes sparkle, a jewellery making demonstration by Elaine Hawley with option to buy some of her wares afterwards. Then, of course, we will be holding our Annual Coffee Morning on 21st August with cake, plants and produce, nearly new and tombola stalls.

In September we have Mrs. MacKay speaking on “Autumn Glory” and we will be having a Table Top Sale in the Village Hall on the 20th September - £5 a table.

If you are interested in joining us in any of the above events or need more information, please contact the Secretary.

Why not join your local WI? Make new friends, enjoy great outings, listen to interesting speakers and discussions and learn new crafts. We would love to have younger members join us so that we could put their ideas and input into our programmes too. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday in the month and start at 7.30pm and new members and visitors are always very welcome. Anyone wanting further information please contact the Secretary on 01909 540751.

WINTERFEST THANKS...

Derek and Enid Bailey, who launched Winterfest with Nigel Lee several years ago as an antidote to the post Christmas blues, enjoyed this year's event as much as everyone, and contacted FLAG to record their thanks to Simon Copley and his team on the village hall committee.

Derek was particularly enthusiastic about the production. “Peter and the Wolf was an excellent choice,” he said, “and for some children it was a perfect introduction to orchestral instruments. Reserving the front seats for the children was a master stroke.”

Congratulating Simon and the rest of the team Derek added: “The Village Hall Committee goes from strength to strength...”



Full house for the Winterfest

END OF AN ERA FOR FIRBECK MUM & TODDLER GROUP

Sadly, with the drop in numbers and children moving on to Nursery and Pre-school Tuesday 15th April will be the last full meeting of the Firbeck Mum & Toddler Group and when we plan to have a small party to celebrate all the time we have spent together.

We hope to meet on Tuesday 22nd April. This will depend on how many of our children, past and present, will be home on that date - the day after Easter Monday Bank Holiday.

It has been a great privilege to run the Toddler Group over the past nine years, seeing the village children grow and mature together. In that time, over 30 youngsters have attended the Group and all have gained much needed experience prior to the start of Pre-school.

We do hope to carry on with a similar session during the school holidays - depending on the availability of the Village Hall. This will be in addition to the Friday Kid's Club which is currently organised by parents.

If, in the future, anyone would wish to re-start the playgroup, I should be only too happy to pass on all relevant information and bank account, etc. All of the equipment will stay in-situ at the Village Hall so that a future group could easily get underway. All would depend on sufficient under 3s being resident in the village.

Time appears to have passed so quickly for me and now appears to me to be a most appropriate time to stand down. Thank you to all parents for your support but, most of all, thank you to all of our wonderful children.

Una Ellis. Telephone 01709 813330.

POLICE SEIZE STOLEN DIGGER

All credit to South Yorkshire Police for solving at least one case close to home.

Officers managed to track down farmer Andrew Moore's JCB which was stolen from the locked barn at Moorlands Farm at Letwell before Christmas - and arrested a suspect after he was spotted behind the wheel eight miles away at Ravenfield.

The man was finally apprehended with the help of the police helicopter after he crashed the digger in a field and fled on foot.

Apparently, the suspect denied any involvement in the theft, but court proceedings are thought to be in the offing.

Andrew hasn't been re-united with his old machine. "I'd replaced it with another digger by the time they got it back," he says.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAYRE

The biggest event in the Letwell social calendar - the Street Fayre - takes place on the afternoon of Saturday July 5th, and there's the usual mix of fun and games lined up for visitors.

Thurcroft Brass Band have been booked to entertain the crowds, and there's host of other attractions too. An exhibition of vintage buses from the South Yorkshire Transport Museum will be on display together with an array of modern farming machinery and lots of traditional games - among them pot smashing as well as the coconut shy and the crazy Human Fruit Machine, which proved such a hit last year with the children.

There'll be Maypole dancing too by the side of the village street.

Home made teas will be served throughout the afternoon in the village hall.

The festivities start at 1.30 pm. All proceeds go to support the upkeep of St. Peter's church.

WRECKING THE VERGES

FLAG took a walk through Firbeck the other week, and was aghast at the huge tyre tracks scarring the grass verge at the junction of Kidd Lane and New Road. Do truck drivers get a kick out of wrecking our village streets? Looking at the verges running alongside Ramper Road at Letwell the answer is YES.

Fly tipping continues to blight the verges and hedgerows too. Some numpty dumped a double mattress on a remote farm track in the fields off Gildingwells road at Letwell last week. Better there than in the middle of the crop....

FIRBECK CALENDAR 2015 - GET SNAPPING NOW!

This year's calendar proved to be very popular and so we have decided to compile another for next year. This time we are asking you to provide the photographs. All photographs must have been taken in the village and can show any aspect of life here. Those submitted will be on display in the village hall during the Harvest Weekend in September and a ballot will decide which are to be included in the calendar.

There is to be a small charge to enter your pictures, but all profits from the event and sale of calendars will go to St. Martin's Church.

For further information contact Anita, (to be found at the Monday coffee mornings held at the village hall between 10am & 12 noon.)

stantona50@yahoo.co.uk telephone 01709 818927

FIRBECK SCARECROWS

There is a rumour that on September 13th Firbeck is to be invaded! Don't panic (unless you are one of our feathered friends), it is only by a friendly band of scarecrows and they will do you no harm. Several have already booked their accommodation around the village, but we have room for more.

If you want to take part in this fun event start planning now. Design and make your own scarecrow character as large or as small as you want. You may want to keep it a secret from friends & neighbours until nearer the time!

Even if you are not a Firbeck resident we will find a place for your scarecrow.

Please contact me, Anita, if you want to take part or for further information as I need to know where they will be situated in order to produce a scarecrow trail. I am to be found at the Monday coffee mornings held at the village hall between 10am & 12 noon.

stantona50@yahoo.co.uk telephone 01709 818927

ROGER CATCHES UP WITH "HAPPY HARRY" AT M & S

On a visit to the south coast, FLAG met up with former Letwell residents Roger and Freda Brooks, who now live in Poole.

Former journalist and Radio Hallam boss Roger has picked up the reins of his old radio career to volunteer in aid of the local talking newspaper for the blind.

This has involved interviewing people ranging from a former Burma 'Death Railway' prisoner of war to the head of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, But one interview wasn't exactly planned.

Roger was shopping in his local M & S (as you do) when he bumped into

Poole's most famous son, football manager Harry Rednapp.

Harry, apparently didn't look to be in a hurry.

In addition to his other claims to fame, including a dispute with the tax man and being the bookies' and fans' favourite for the England team managership, Harry's neo-Tudor home is one of Sandbanks' main tourist sights.

So Roger took his courage in both hands and asked Harry if he'd be willing to spare half an hour for the talking news magazine.

"He was charm itself and offered immediately to do the interview whenever it suited us," said Roger.

"He insisted on giving me his phone number and was very helpful throughout.

"We chatted about The Game and his regrets at not having got the England job, and he also had a quick response when I asked him about the rumour (at the time) that Alex Ferguson's job would be on offer.

" 'Nar!, he said in his best London drawl. ' I'm nearly as old as Fergie, I don't think it's for me'.

"He was right, as it turned out, and he joined QPR. But that's Harry all over. As his autobiography makes clear, he's happy Harry anywhere, as long as it's in football."

ROCHE VALLEY YCA INVITES YOU TO A FLORAL EVENING

We are pleased to announce that internationally celebrated floral designer Carl Wilde will be demonstrating his art at Firbeck village hall at 7pm on Thursday 29th May. His amazing creations are to be raffled at the end of the evening. Tickets, which include wine & canapés on arrival, are £15 and all profits from the evening will go to Leukaemia & Lymphoma research and the Rotherham Hospice. For more information please ring Helen Taylor on 01709 816358 or Janet on 07789 240484

NEWS FROM FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings were held on the 29th January and 9th April.

Councillors were pleased to note that the Highways department had temporarily installed a speed sign on New Road. Unfortunately however RMBC could not provide any data from the machine due to a fault that had been discovered. Members agreed they would seek a further spell with the sign once the fault had been repaired.

In light of the very windy weather experienced during the winter months members of the public expressed concerns at the January meeting about the condition of the large beech tree on Lime Avenue. There had been problems ascertaining ownership of the tree, bearing in mind its position on this unadopted road and with RMBC confirming that they were not responsible. However at the Parish Council's request RMBC did subsequently undertake a preliminary inspection of the tree and advised it appeared to be in reasonable condition with reasonably good prospects. RMBC have advised that an arboricultural consultant would need to carry out a detailed climbed inspection to ensure that it was free of any significant defects. However no one can guarantee the safety of a tree, particularly during strong windy conditions, even where it appears to be in good condition.

The Parish Council considered a use for the telephone box at the April meeting. Having purchased the telephone box some time ago members agreed to look at the cost of repainting the box and in the meantime approved its use as a seed bank for residents.

The Parish Council additionally considered whether any community assets should be registered with RMBC to help protect these for the village. It was agreed that Councillors would meet with a representative of RMBC to discuss the merits of such applications.

The issue of dog fouling was raised at the April meeting with it being noted that there was a problem on the bridlepath near St Martins. This was despite there being a dog waste bin being provided on Flat Lane. The Parish Council would urge dog owners to please remember to pick up after their pets or risk paying a substantial fine.

Casual Vacancies

The Council currently has two casual vacancies. If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and would like to discuss what it means and how they might get involved then please contact either the Clerk to the Council, Angela Harrison on 01909 239911 or Chairman James Charlesworth on 07774 212175 or email clerk.firbeckpc@hotmail.co.uk