

The Bonfire rages on!

Luttons Parish Council View

I feel I should clarify the misrepresentation in Mr Whitwells statement in the Warbler, on notice boards and on the village website in respect of Bonfire Night. Certainly no Councillor has ever expressed a view that this event was "not what the locals want", and, incidentally, the event was not "free" but a net charge to the small Luttons Parish precept. It was only free to the residents of other Parishes.

The decision not to arrange the event was taken purely on our inability to meet the considerable and stringent requirements of both our insurance company and the Health and Safety Executive; this exposed the Council to an unacceptable level of personal and corporate liability. Previous events have not complied with those requirements in most respects, thus putting people and property at risk as well as potentially making the organisers personally liable for any repercussions. The onerous requirements now associated with such events are the reasons why so few councils and organisations now hold them; for example, the Health & Safety Executive guidance on firework displays, which can easily be viewed on line, runs to 31 pages of detail including diagrams of exclusion zones, drop zones, access, emergency response, qualified first aiders, stewarding, etc. Additional requirements exist where bonfires are included.

The reasons for the decision were made clear at the Council meeting on 28 May (subsequently minuted and published), as well as being available to read and discuss at the Parish Open Day. Unfortunately Mr Whitwell was unable to attend either occasion, but any Councillor would have been, and remains, happy to discuss our decision with him should he wish to do so.

The new Parish Council has inherited a considerable workload and agenda, to ensure it begins to meet its statutory obligations, address a potential financial deficit and deal with other outstanding urgent issues of importance locally, which must take priority.

On a positive note, in the same way as any local activities by groups or individuals would be welcomed and encouraged for the benefit of the community, there is absolutely no reason why Mr Whitwell, or indeed anyone else, should not accept responsibility for organising an event such as he is suggesting. In fact the Parish Council would thank him for taking on that responsibility and wish such an initiative well.

John Wane – Chairman - Luttons Parish Council

A Residents View

Following my recent return from holiday I was interested to read the article submitted by Jonathan Whitwell in relation to the current state of affairs. Since there would seem to be some local interest in the history of this traditional event, enjoyed by many people for the past quarter of a century, it occurred to me that a brief history of its origins might be welcomed, especially since I was directly involved in the affairs of Luttons Parish Council for twenty-seven years prior to my resignation as Chairman in May of this year.

Shortly after my appointment as Clerk to Luttons Parish Council in 1984 I was one of many clerks elsewhere to receive a letter from the Fire Brigade suggesting that some form of legally organised supervision would prevent the many accidents with which they were required to deal each year. This suggestion met with the unanimous approval of members of Luttons Parish Council, at that time chaired by Mr. Ward, a local farmer, who kindly volunteered the use of his field, free of charge, alongside Sheepwalk Lane, West Lutton. Having ensured that we were fully insured and that the Parish Council would provide funds for the fireworks for the occasion, a systematic procedure ensued which was to last for twenty-five years. A unanimous decision was also taken to ensure a night entirely free of charge for everyone to savour, irrespective of financial circumstances this was to be an enjoyable social occasion. But no enterprise in any community can succeed without the enthusiastic support of many people, and a great deal of thought and organisation preceded the event from the first. Naturally, a few residents feared that it might well be the proverbial "bridge too far", especially with regard to the possibility of the unsupervised enthusiasm of teenagers with fireworks and the likelihood that any carefully constructed bonfire might well be robbed of its contents before the advent of November 5th. The involvement of the young people themselves was obviously important, and their enthusiasm played a crucial role in the subsequent success of our first Bonfire Night celebrations. Small children of the then flourishing Play-Group constructed a guy to crown the bonfire, pupils at the school provided colourful posters to advertise the event, and the teenagers collected any unwanted material and helped to construct the bonfire! Personally enjoyed viewing the progress of two discarded bedsteads being shepherded down the village-street by local boys. Members of Luttons YCA volunteered to provide and serve refreshments, and, the overall supervision of the lighted bonfire and fireworks display being ensured by members of the Parish Council and adult supporters, we awaited the final result of our efforts.

It proved to be a great success, and from this small beginning grew the much larger, consistently accident-free event, which has been enjoyed by so many people for so many years. Mr. Thornton kindly loaned us the use of his field, following the death of Mr. Ward and the sale of his meadow, and in more recent times the voluntary contributions made by those attending our Bonfire Night celebrations were consistently set aside by my late husband, Alan Corbett, for the express purchase of extra fireworks in the ensuing year, a practice continued by Mr. Dupontet in 2010. Alan was Clerk to Luttons Parish Council for a number of years and I can testify to his enthusiastic support and hard work in support of our Bonfire Night celebrations.

Indeed, I intend to let him have the last word on this occasion. Just three weeks prior to his death from terminal Cancer in November 2009, Alan enjoyed watching the fireworks-display light up the night sky from a bedroom- window and voted it "The best one we have ever had".

I need say no more. *Audrey Corbett.*

The bonfire in the village has been held for 25 years and probably has been a contributory factor in keeping down injuries the tend to occur at home or at unsupervised events.

The Parish Council has decided that this very popular free social occasion is not what the locals want. However, a number of residents want to carry on the tradition and will be fundraising with a view to having our bonfire night as usual.

Jonathan Whitwell – 01944 738200



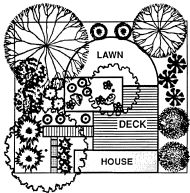
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It will be visiting Manor Farm, Wharram le Street at 10.00 am on Thursday 8th September.

St Peter's Church Helperthorpe Gazebos for Hire

We now have two Gazebos each measuring 9m X 3m available for hire.

We ask for a minimum donation of £10.00 towards Church funds.

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11th September - Dalby International Year of the Forest Celebration
Dalby Visitor Centre & Dalby Courtyard
10 am - 4 pm

Join us to celebrate the International Year of the Forest.

Activities include:-

- 10.00 am - 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm Bark Rubbing, Leaf Prints, The Wishing Tree, Cones and Leaf identification with Jean Harlow, Artist, in the Courtyard.
 - 1.30 pm Opening of the Enchanted Woodland with The Friends of Dalby Forest at Adderstone Field. Story telling in the Fairy Glade at the Enchanted Woodland.
 - 11.00 am - 3.00 pm Cycle skills sessions with the CTC along Ellerburn.
 - 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm Woodland Animal Face Painting in the Visitor Centre.
 - Self led quizzes and trails for all.
- All ages.

Sat 24th September - Trackrod Rally Yorkshire

Dalby, Cropton, Langdale

All day

An exciting opportunity to watch rally cars in action. There will be public vehicle access as far as Sneverdale only - all walks and cycle routes CLOSED for the day. See the Trackrod website www.trackrodmotorclub.co.uk for further information and price details. All ages.



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