

LONGDON-UPON-TERN VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pathway People, Alternate Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00pm (Doreen Brown 541395 or Rosalie Wheeldon 770247). Line Dancing, Tuesdays 7:30pm (Janet French 770677). Canine Conundrums some Wednesdays. (Carol 410964). Yoga, Thursday evenings, term time, (Janet Evans 245983).



CELEBRATE AND SEE THE NEW YEAR IN = IN STYLE

Celebrate New Years Eve at Rodington Village Hall

8pm until early 2007!

Entertainment by Mike Taylor

£12.50 (includes buffet)

Proceeds to the Village Hall and Cemetery Funds

Tickets from

Jean — 01952 770 744

Ann — 07725 816 956

Diane — 01952 770 292

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Cllr. Janet French (Chairman)	01952 770 677	janet@temcrafts.co.uk
Cllr. Brian Ashton	01952 770 156	
Cllr. Claire Broderick	01952 770 636	claire11@onetel.com
Cllr. David Johnson (Vice Chair)	01952 770 577	dave.johnson@t2enterprises.co.uk
Cllr. Liz Tudor	01952 770 348	lizzie.tudor@virgin.net
Cllr. Tim Osborne	01952 770 801	opsi@direct.shawburyigs.raf.mod.uk
Cllr. John Perkin	01952 771 261	nikrep@dsl.pipex.com
Borough Councillors		
Cllr. Jacqueline Seymour	01952 506 790	jacqui.seymour@telford.gov.uk
Cllr. David Blackwell	01952 222 763	david.blackwell@telford.gov.uk

Clerk to Rodington Parish Council, Michael Gledhill, Birchmere, 21 Leegomery Road, Wellington, Telford TF1 3BP Tel: 01952 252 115 Email: mikegled@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter—December 2006

SEASONAL GREETINGS FROM RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas, a good time to consider those who are less fortunate in the community?

Christmas is generally seen as a time when presents are exchanged, or we consider helping those who are less fortunate. In Shropshire we are fortunate in that we have a charity whose sole aim is "To help make communities in Shropshire and Telford a better place to live for all". The Community Foundation for Shropshire and Telford is a local charity set up by local people for the benefit of local people. The foundation exists to promote and support charitable, voluntary and community activities which aim to improve the quality of life for everyone and in particular the

young, the elderly and those with special needs. It also works to combat the effects of poverty and disadvantage resulting from for example, rural isolation, urban deprivation and ethnicity. Working closely with both individual and corporate donors, in accordance with their charitable interests, the foundation distributes funds to voluntary organizations in the form of grants for their projects or work. Grants are targeted to where need is greatest in the community. The Foundation aims primarily to support smaller voluntary organizations who are undertaking valuable work at grassroots level in the community but do not have the muscle to market themselves in seeking funds. Details of grant eligibility, donations and other aspect of the foundation's work can be obtained from: The Community Foundation for Shropshire and Telford, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford TF3 4HS. Tel: 01952 201 858 Fax: 01952 210 500 email: contact@cfst.co.uk



ROAD AND HIGHWAY WORK WITHIN THE PARISH

In September 2006 the Parish Council invited an engineer from the Borough of Telford and Wrekin to participate in a Parish walk-around to identify road surface problems. The results of the walk-around were presented to the Council at their full meeting in October. Apart from defects that arise, such as pot holes and have to be dealt with in agreed timescales, the following longer term issues were identified and agreed upon:

Priority 1 Work covers: Road from Rodington Heath to Roden: Verge over run. Stoning work late 2006, plus the Somerwood road: Possible works early 2007

Priority 2 Work covers: Rodington Heath/Roden junction: Works projected 2007/2008, plus The Old Grove Farm: Works projected 2007/2008

Priority 3/4 Work covers: Rodington Heath: Kerbing of verges. Undertaken in stages possibly starting 2008/2009.

Priority 4 Work covers: Isombridge Road: Surfacing – possible surface dressing 2008/2009.

Other Work covers: Road to the top of the hill from the Bull PH: Surface water issues. No date set.

WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR?

A good question that does not have a simple answer. It depends on a variety of factors; it depends on what you, the Parishioners want; it depends on the type of Parish; it depends on how much money is allocated to the Parish and it depends on the quality of the Councillors that you elect to the Parish Council. The present system of Parish and Town Councils grew out of the Ecclesiastical Parish, which was centred on an Anglican church with a parochial church council chaired by the vicar. The Parish Council is now a civil organisation created by Act of Parliament and is an independent local democratic unit that forms the most local tier of an administration that extends up through Borough and regional organisations culminating in Parliament and our MP. Our Parish is part of the Borough of Telford and Wrekin. Therefore, the Parish Council is your first point of contact if you have concerns over local issues. The Parish Councillors are available to talk to at any time but if you have any particular issues the monthly Parish Council Meeting always starts with a public session when any Parishioner can come and tell the Council their concern and, if it is within the Council's power, get the Councillors to help. Each Parish Council has close links with its local Telford and Wrekin Borough Councillors; in fact they attend the monthly Parish Council meetings and can take any concerns expressed by Parishioners to the Borough Council. It can be a very effective way of getting the local authority to listen to you, especially if you have been trying for some time to get them to pay attention and you feel as though you might be banging your head against a brick wall! The Parish Council can be responsible for a variety of local issues: street lighting, allotments, play areas, village greens, cemeteries, public rights of way (footpaths, potholes), bus shelters and public seats to name but a few. These are very local issues but they often generate intense interest and can affect the quality of life of local people to a disproportionate degree. The Council may, for instance, be able to prosecute noisemakers or litterbugs. It does have a small amount of public money available to it, called the precept, which is taken from our Council Tax and amounts to about £12 a year per elector at the moment. This money should be used to improve the Parishioners quality of life and has paid for such things as upkeep of the cemetery, traffic calming measures and donations to the 2 village halls. The Parish Council is expected to voice an informed opinion to Telford and Wrekin planning authorities on local planning applications and will consider all such applications at the monthly Council meetings. Councillors must live or work within the Parish. The Council is led by a Chairman, who is elected once a year by the other Councillors. The Parish Clerk, an appointed official, keeps the minutes and accounts and carries out the decisions of the Council. The Clerk does much of the practical work of the Council, works part time and is paid to do so. The clerk tends to be busy dealing with the mechanics of local government and is trained to provide Parish Councillors with help and advice. The Councillors, of course, are not paid for their time.



So, to return to the question in the title of this piece, what is the Parish Council for? It is the bottom rung of the democratic system in this country and the first link between the electorate and the administration. It has limited powers and its effectiveness in dealing with local issues depends partly on parishioners bringing those issues to its notice and the Councillors subsequent ability to engage with the Local Authority and provide solutions for our local community.

Further Details Contact Stan Boden on 01952 770 524

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday		Line Dancing	Rodington Players
Tuesday		Painting	Bingo or Youth Club
Wednesday	Computers	BALAD	Whist or Ladies Club
Thursday	Indoor Bowls	Indoor Bowls	Buggy Club
Friday			Private Hire or Concerts
Saturday	Private Hire	Private Hire	PHOAS
Sunday	Private Hire	Private Hire	Private Hire
BALAD = Ballroom & Latin American Dancing PHOAS = Private Hire or Astronomical Society			Rodi's Entertainments See below:(tickets 770259/770524)
Fri 8th Dec "8 in Bar" at 7:30 - barbershop singing, sketches, comedy and magic		Fri 12th Jan at 8pm "Jazzline" a traditional Jazz evening	
Fri 9th Feb "Shrewsbury Police Choir" at 7:30 - an arresting experience		Fri 9th Mar at 7:30 "The Shropshire Orpheus Savoyards" songs from the shows	

NEW IDEAS NEEDED!

There are still opportunities to book

Rodington Village Hall and Meeting Room (daytime or evening). If you have any ideas for new activities for adults or youth groups, or have skills that you would like to pass on to others, please let me know. Contact Brian Richards on 01952 770259.



RODINGTON MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION — Saturday the 4th November saw the annual Model Railway Exhibition take place in Rodington Village Hall. This again was a resounding success with over 500 visitors attending. The standard of model railway being exhibited was very high with something for everyone, ranging from the small compact size, to the large size trains which normally are seen going around a garden. The exhibition also catered for the Ladies with two excellent Craft stalls and more importantly for the children with a "Thomas the Tank Engine" set which they were allowed to drive themselves. This is a wonderful idea, as normally at events such as this it is very much DO NOT TOUCH!!

The exhibition was supported by friends from the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway from Toddington in the Cotswolds who provided a very informative photographic display with members on hand to answer any queries from visitors. As usual the Rodington Ladies provide excellent refreshments.



The Village Hall Management Committee express their thanks to all who were involved in making this event such a success. This is now to be an annual event so book next years date now it is

Saturday 3rd November 2007.