

SPOTLIGHT ON ARNSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Continuing our profile of Arnside's Parish Councillors - this edition we feature Councillor Terry Keefe.

Councillor Terry Keefe and his wife Sheila have lived in Arnside since 2000 although their links with the village date back to 1993.

Terry came to the North West having spent more than 20 years at Leicester University, lecturing and researching in French literature and philosophy. During that time he published six books and for several years had major administrative roles as Head of Department and Faculty Dean. In 1988 he moved to a Professorship at Lancaster University, taking early retirement in 1998.

"I joined the Parish Council in 2002 to 'help out' in a village to which we felt very much committed," he explains.

"I believed strongly that APC should write a Parish Plan under the 'Vital Villages' scheme and chaired the group that drew up the Plan. This largely dominated my time for some 15 months in 2002-03. I was strongly in favour of establishing an independent group to help follow up on the Plan and still believe that this was the best move."

He sees the Parish Council as being an efficient, committed one: "Residents do not always understand how limited its powers are, but it does a great deal for the good of the village."

"Sheila and I love the setting of the village and the level of activity as far as clubs and societies are concerned," he says. "We both teach classes at the Educational Institute. Our two children and four grandchildren visit us here frequently and we can scarcely think of a better location in which to welcome them."

Terry contributes a lot of his time and energy to a number of organisations in the area and has been involved with the



Landscape Trust, which supports the work of the AONB, for the past 4 or 5 years. He is well known as the editor of the Trust's journal, *Keer to Kent*, which always contains material about Arnside and sees the village in the context of the whole area.

DIARY DATES

Village Market

Easter Saturday 7th April 2007
10am to 4pm W.I. Village Hall

Cemetery Chapel Fair Trade Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th April 10am to 12 noon
A coffee morning with a difference

Parish Assembly

19th April W.I. Hall at 7.30pm

Arnside Parish Plan Open Day

Saturday 16th June W.I. Village Hall
10am to 12 noon

ARNSIDE MESSENGER

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SUSTAINING A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Arnside residents were concerned recently when yet another retail outlet closed in the village. Encouraging a sustainable environment is vital for rural villages and small towns if they are not to become "Ghost towns".

Arnside is a vibrant and well-balanced village and it's important to try and preserve that. Over the last ten years we have seen the loss of our bank, several retail units in Silverdale Road and on the sea-front. The recent loss of the Spar is another blow to the village. This has a devastating impact on local employment.

The Sustainable Communities Bill is at present going through Parliament. Designed to reverse the "Ghost Town" syndrome - the decline of economic activity, jobs, shop facilities and services - the Bill requires Central Government to help reverse the trend in ways driven by local councils and the communities themselves. Parish Councils as the lowest tier of local government are specifically included as they are closest to grass roots level.

The Bill has cross-party support in the Commons and is also supported by the Countryside Alliance. Proposals in the Bill devolve power back to local communities seeking to empower local people to make decisions on how to reverse ongoing decline within their local area.



We are fortunate in Arnside that we have an active and involved community. However, it is important that we remain vigilant and protect our services so that Arnside can remain a great place to live,



Arnside Village Shops

accommodating all age groups.

We are fortunate too that traders are opening new businesses in Arnside. The newly opened delicatessen and refurbished butchers is to be applauded. We need to encourage new businesses to come to Arnside and stay here by supporting them.

In Cumbria we are well placed to use our local shops for good local produce which has not travelled hundreds of miles to get to our tables.

Hopefully, by the time the Messenger is delivered another retailer may have been found to take over the former Spar premises. Keeping our community alive is an issue we should all be involved in so that our village doesn't become a "Ghost Town". We need to be able to offer affordable housing, facilities for our youth, jobs and services so that our village remains the warm and welcoming place it has always been.

FIRST RESPONDER GROUP - AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE IN ARNSIDE



Volunteer demonstrates

The Community First Responder Groups were formed so that assistance can be given to cardiac and stroke patients in the shortest possible time. Most people have heard of the 'Golden Hour' where the patient's survival is greatest the earlier treatment can be given.

With cardiac patients the crucial period following the onset of a heart attack is the first five minutes.

Arnside First responders have two defibrillators available to them and are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

We hope to respond within the five minute initial period but certainly within 10 minutes depending on the time of day or night. We are all volunteers and whilst we are on call all the time we cannot guarantee availability.

The decision as to whether to activate our pagers, and which calls we attend, is taken by the Ambulance Service following receipt of a 999 call. We are always after volunteers and will train anybody in life saving skills.

Jeremy Bayley Tel: 01524 762314

ARNSIDE PARISH PLAN TRUST

APPT is finalising the review of its objectives and if you haven't yet completed a response sheet you can still do so online at www.arnside.co.uk (follow Key Arnside Sites, Arnside Parish Plan Trust) or you can obtain a response sheet from the library.

We will also have them available at the Village Market in April.

You can hand in your responses at the Village Market, the Library or return them to G. Pinder, Greycroft, Spinney Lane, Arnside, LA5 OEP or reply online. The aim is to consult as widely as possible for constructive ideas which we can try and put into place.

Please contribute as your responses will be used to determine the need to work with areas not originally highlighted in the 2003-2008 Parish Plan.

The results of the consultation will be available at the Arnside Parish Plan Trust Open Day on Saturday 16th June. If you would like to get involved with APPT please contact Brian Walker on 761949.

MESSENGER CONTACTS

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of producing the Messenger please contact Rachel Dutfield on 762573. To contact the editor, Sandy Felton, please email: sandy.felton@btopenworld.com

If you have any specific news about your organisation please contact Sandy, and space permitting, we will do our best to put it in. We always welcome offers of help to distribute the messenger. If you can assist please contact Rachel Dutfield.

THANKYOU

This edition of the Messenger has been sponsored by The Albion Community Fund.

ARNSIDE GIRL GUIDES CONTINUING A 100 YEAR TRADITION



3rd Arnside Guides may not have been the first Guide unit in Arnside but it has stood the test of time. More than ¾ of a century since it was set up (by Hester Scriven) in 1930 it remains as popular as ever with girls aged 10-14.

While world wide Guiding gears up for centenary celebrations in 2010 for its 10 million members, a dedicated team of five Guiders and three Young Leaders ensure that Arnside's 28 Guides are able to continue the traditions, challenges and experience of Guiding in their local neighbourhood.

Guide leader Sue Jackson explained that as well as working for individual badges the Guides also work in teams for several sessions on "Go-for-its". The Patrols plan and undertake everything themselves - with a little help from the leaders - on a wide variety of topics. These include cooking, outdoor activities, hair and make-up, singing and drama as well as crafts, and gain a certificate at the end to mark their Patrol's achievement. The three Young Leaders recently attained their Baden Powell awards and two other Young Leaders, who work with the Brownies, are currently working towards their Queen's Guide awards.

Involvement in Guides extends beyond weekly meetings. Arnside Guides are part of the County of Cumbria South and meet with other Guides for joint events such as drama and singing competitions. They also get together with the other units from Kent-Lune Division for 'Thinking Day' celebrations and swimming galas. Added to this are trips out, holidays and the highlight of the year 'The Big Gig', to be held in October at the Manchester Arena

where Guides from all over the country have the opportunity to meet and see a live pop concert with top artists. For information on Arnside Guides contact Sue Jackson on 761915.

AONB MATTERS

By the time you read this, our merry band of volunteers should have been out to bring you your copy of The Bittern 2007, don't worry if you have not received one, copies are available at various outlets in the village including the Doctors' Surgery and Library. This year's publication has the usual favourites from our partners but we hope you also enjoy the new additions of 'Birds of the AONB' and the very interesting article from Cumbria Wildlife Trust about their reserve at Grubbins Wood. We also hope that you will be taking up the challenge to dust off your bikes and will be pedalling your way to fitness, although we can fully understand if you are waiting for the weather to warm up a little first!

Several new leaflets have been published this month: Cycle & See; 5 cycle rides in and around the AONB; Clints & Grykes, a self-guided walk from Silverdale Station looking at the geology of the AONB; and Heritage Trail which looks at our Limestone Heritage. All leaflets are available free of charge from the AONB office.

The Limestone Heritage Project came to an end in March. This five year scheme which delivered around 100 individual heritage conservation schemes throughout the AONB. As you travel round the area, we hope you will enjoy the restored walls, limekilns and ponds which make such a significant contribution to our wonderful landscape.

David Askew