

# **SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**January 2008**

## **Precept for 2008/2009**

Since we reported back to you in December, five of our nine Councillors signed a special resolution to reconsider the decision to keep the Precept at £10,500 for another year. They felt that since the new homes at The Leys would bring in around £520 in additional Council Tax, it would be prudent to increase the Precept for 2008/2009 by 5% (£525). Their main concern was that with inflation, the money would not go as far as it did last year, especially as our Reserve funds for emergencies, such as damage to trees on land it owns or leases, are lower than the level recommended by our auditors. After careful consideration of the pros and cons, the resolution was carried by five votes to four. This means that the Precept for 2008/2009 will be £11,025 rather than £10,500.

## **Lychgate Project**

This project, entirely grant-funded from monies awarded to the Parish Council, in partnership with the PCC, is nearing completion. Those of you who have watched work in progress will be delighted to see the dilapidated structure restored to its former glory. Wherever possible, original materials have been used, but where it has been necessary to replace oak pieces, they will soon mellow to a silvery grey to match the older timbers. All that needs to be done now is to install some hard landscaping immediately around the Lychgate, to minimise the possibility of water damage. We are hoping to arrange an Opening Ceremony in the Spring, but in the meantime, appeal to any of you who might know something of the history of the Lychgate, as we have discovered little from searches at the West Sussex Records Office (including Goodwood records) and through the Diocese. If you can help, please contact our Chairman, Bill Spence, or Jenny Martin, the Clerk (01243 266092).

## **Recent Burglaries**

Most of you will have heard that there were three burglaries in Singleton on the night of 18/19 December. At our recent meeting, PCSO Jason Lemm described Police action so far, to try to bring the culprits to justice. Naturally, this has increased local residents' concerns about being victims of similar crime. Mr. Mick Cogger, Police Crime Prevention Officer, can offer advice to individuals about protecting their homes. He can be reached on 0845 60 70 999. Jason also told us about a very effective forensic solution used by the Police, called "Smartwater", which can be applied to your valuables by leaving your unique forensic "footprint". This makes them easier to identify, should you be unlucky enough to become a crime victim. More information can be found on [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com)

## **Flooding**

Since Christmas, when we have had so much rain, there have been many reports of flooding on public highways. Bill Spence is, as usual, keeping a record of areas which are prone to flooding, or standing water, so if you have experienced any problems, please let him know. He will then pass the information on to Chichester District Council, who liaise with the Environment Agency over problem areas.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26 March 2008, but before this, we will hold the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors. This will begin at 7pm at Singleton Village Hall.** This is a special annual meeting for local residents to come along, hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year and suggest items for action in the future. It is also an opportunity for representatives from local groups to come along and tell everyone what they do. Please spare half an hour of your time to come along – we hope to see you there!