

CUSOP PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2015

A Cusop charity?

In recent months the Parish Council has been thinking about ways of helping people in the parish. The Council sets aside funds each year for donations, but these can go only to groups, not to individuals. But charities can help individuals. Locally the North Weir Trust already does a good job, providing help to people who live within ten miles of Hay Town Clock. This includes Cusop, but is there a case for an extra charity just for Cusop residents? The Council might be able to provide funds towards it, but it would be up to volunteers to set it up and run it. The Council would like to know what you think - do contact the Clerk (details overleaf) or speak to one of our Councillors.

Cusop Website News

The new Cusop website should be up and running early in the New Year. It continues to provide information about local groups and events, but is simpler, more attractive and user-friendly. The address remains the same: www.cusop.net. You can receive email alerts about local news and events by signing up on the new website. Everyone who registered with the old website will automatically be signed up to receive alerts from the new. Anyone else can sign up by giving an email address and saying which sort of alerts they want to receive. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose and you can un-subscribe at any time. If you have any ideas for improving the website or would like information about, for example, a Cusop community group added, contact website administrator Alison Matthews on 820152 or alison@treleaver.myzen.co.uk

Cusop Parish Development Plan

We reported in the last newsletter that the Cusop Plan was 'on hold' until the future of the new Herefordshire county plan was more certain. This has now been resolved. The county plan - or "Core Strategy" as it is officially called - was finally adopted by Herefordshire Council in October, so the steering group can get going again with the Cusop Plan. Fortunately there have been no changes to the Herefordshire plan that significantly affect the content of the Cusop Plan, so its content, based on consultation with residents over the past two years, should be much as we envisaged. A draft plan should be ready early in the New Year and it will be available for all residents to comment on before it is finalised. It then goes forward for examination by an independent examiner and finally a referendum of all electors in the parish. Further information from the Clerk (details overleaf).

Wanted - Parish Tree Warden

A county-wide network for tree wardens has been revived and is offering training and support. The parish tree warden is a volunteer role, acting as 'eyes and ears' for the trees of the parish, encouraging good care and appreciation, especially of any veterans, and planting for the next generation. In Cusop we have been lucky to have had land management expert Phil Ferguson as warden for many years, but the new network and its training offers the chance to hand over to someone new. You don't need to be an expert yourself, just enthusiastic. If you are interested, do speak to Phil on 820246 or to the Clerk (details overleaf).

Small Business Grants

Herefordshire Council has a new scheme of grants of up to £35,000 for small rural business projects. It is called the Leader Programme 2015-20. You can find out more at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leader>

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?

West Mercia Police with the NFU have appointed a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator for the county, Paul Crumpton. He says that where a scheme exists a place becomes more friendly and cohesive, with research showing a significant fall in crime or the opportunities for crime. There is flexibility in the way watches are run and they are supported by the Police by way of newsletters, community alerts, texts, emails and tweets etc. Cusop does not currently have a neighbourhood watch. If you would be interested in helping with one, contact Paul on 01905 727402 or Paul.Crumpton@WestMercia.pnn.police.uk

Report from Cusop History Group

After the success of the pop-up museum visited by over 100 local residents, we have formed a committee and have a website, e-mail address, and are on facebook and twitter. In October Tim Hoverd, the Herefordshire County Archaeologist, led two guided walks in Cusop detailing the industrial past and the purpose of the castle. In November we had a well-attended talk on Herbert Armstrong by Dr Wilson and Dave Bennett both of whom agreed that Armstrong's sentence was unsafe. Details of the Cusop History Group can be found on www.cusophistory.wix.com/cusop or www.cusop.net and follow the link. Email: cusophistory@gmail.com

Report from St Mary's Church

The last few months have been very busy at Cusop Church. As well as our usual services, we held our popular Wartime Teas and a well-attended Harvest Festival where the £173.15 collection was sent to Hegongo Girls' School, Tanzania, to help with the installation of solar panels. At the service we also thanked David Williams for his work as a dedicated Church Warden for over twenty years. In early October the builders arrived and they are making good progress; the rotting wooden floor has been removed and a new oak floor will be laid so that the back of the church will be levelled with the aisle and the porch. The fluorescent lights have been dismantled and replaced by spot lights which light up the beauty of our church including the 14th century roof. We are extremely grateful to John Wilks, Church Warden, who has supervised all the building work.

We have welcomed and provided refreshments to several Walking Tours and Cusop History Group has held its meetings at the church. When the building work is completed, we hope that the church will be used much more as a "community space" for meetings and events.

Please do join us at Cusop Church during the Christmas season. On *Sunday 20th December at 4.30pm* there will be a family-friendly Carols and Candles Service, combining carols and readings and ending with the lighting of candles. On *Christmas Day, Friday 25th December at 9.30am* there will be a Family Service; this will be an informal service and the perfect start to Christmas Day.

Village Hall Events

Saturday 19th December 7.30pm Christmas Storytelling Evening. An evening of stories, rhymes & prose with local raconteur Phil Smith as our MC. If you would like to participate on the night with a favourite reading, just let us know, so we can plan the evening's schedule. Cost £5.00 per person to include Xmas pudding, mince pies and a glass of mulled wine. (as usual you are welcome to bring your own drinks). Booking essential. Contact Alison 820152 or Sandra 820125.

Thursday 31st December 11.30am for 12noon New Year's Eve Lunchtime Celebration. Come and join your Cusop neighbours and friends of the Village Hall to welcome in 2015 as it arrives at 12 noon on the other side of the world! We will be providing a light lunch and a glass of mulled wine (free of charge) but if you would like to bring along a side-dish, desert or bottle of wine to share, that would be most welcome. If you have any questions contact Jim 820705 or Sandra 820125

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

*Cusop Parish Council can be contacted via the Clerk - Ian Jardin at Burnside in Cusop Dingle.
Telephone 01497 820377 Email clerk@cusop.net*