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## ***An occasional Great & Little Gidding Parish Council newsletter December 2008***

*Chairman: Andrew Alexander, 62 Main Street*

*Press and Public Relations Officer: Adam Titmus, The Cottage, Milking Slade Lane*

*Parish Clerk: Sally Dalley, Parish Council Office, Village Hall*

*This newsletter is published occasionally when the Parish Council has particular news that we wish to publish throughout the village, including those households who do not have access to the monthly Parish Magazine or the Giddings website at <www.thegiddings.org.uk>.*

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### **Gidding Post Office Latest**

The strong response from the survey of village opinion taken by the Action Group was that we should fight the closure of the village Post Office, regardless of the impact on the proposed mobile service (known as Outreach).

The Action Group had a meeting with two representatives from the Post Office at the beginning of November. The Post Office wanted to discuss the issues concerning sites for the Outreach vehicle in the village.

It was established that there isn't anywhere safe to park an Outreach vehicle in Gidding and won't be, at least until the new school is built and associated pavements and traffic calming measures provided, in, perhaps, two years time.

The Post Office don't want to wait that long, as they have managed to find a franchisee for the van (the Outreach service is subcontracted to a private individual, a bit like the current village shop). We understand that they are looking to implement the Outreach service in the New Year (after the profitable Christmas period).

Apparently, the latest plan is that Gidding will be the most northerly point on a route covering villages north of Bedford.

The Gidding post office closure, specifically, has been raised in a

parliamentary committee and our local MP, Shailesh Vara, has also been fighting our corner, so we are a "high-profile case" in the eyes of the Post Office, and they will be anxious to be seen to do everything by the book.

We await further developments.

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### **Parish Council**

We welcome Julie Byard, an energetic campaigner against the Post Office closure, to the Parish Council. At the same time, pressure of work has forced Ian Stapleton to hand over his duties as Vice-Chairman to Robin Hayden.

Have you ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor or wondered what they do? Come to a meeting and find out!

Although the council is now up to strength, we are still open to enthusiasts who want to commit time to the village, as some of the councillors (including the editor, who has written the last two Clarions in Manchester) find it difficult to do as much for the Council as they would like.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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### **Parish Councillors**

The Parish Councillors are:

Andrew Alexander (Chair)	62 Main Street	293315
Robin Hayden (Vice-Chair, Highways & Police)	Warren House, Main Street	293360
Julie Byard (Rights of Way)	5 Chapel End	293576
Paul Hodson (Finance & Charities)	17 Chapel End	293782
Henry Hill (Councillor without Portfolio)	9 Mill Road	293404
Ian Stapleton (Planning & Tree Warden)	70 Main Street	293463
Adam Titmus (Press & PR)	The Cottage, Milking Slade Lane	293302

*The Parish Council Office in the Village Hall is open  
on Tuesdays and Thursday from 11:30 to 1:00. Phone 293068*

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## **Police**

### Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Emily Conroy would like to hear from anyone interested in this scheme. We already have one volunteer to cover Mill Lane and part of Main Street.

Tel: 0845 456 456 4 or contact the Parish Council Office who will be happy to pass on details.

### E-Cops

E-Cops is a free e-mail information service from the police. Subscribers receive regular information bulletins from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The e-mails contain information relating to local criminal and suspicious activity, crime reduction advice and notification of meetings and events etc. If you are interested in becoming a member of this free scheme, please log onto [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) select the green 'E-Cops' icon and follow the instructions.

*In an emergency call 999 – when a life is in danger or a crime is being committed. For non-emergencies call 0845 456 456 4 – when your call does not require immediate police attendance, contacting your local Neighbourhood Policing Team or any other enquiry. Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 – to give information anonymously about crime. On line – [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk).*

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## **History of Gidding**

Moves are afoot to maintain the record of the village created in the monumental Millenium History, (or “Ellis and Shepherd” as it's known to academics). A meeting of those interested will be arranged. Please leave your name with the Parish Council Office and you will be contacted.

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## **Streetlights**

There have been a number of complaints about faulty streetlights in the village. If you notice a faulty streetlight, it can be reported by using the free telephone number on the pole, which is also numbered for identification.

## **Cambridgeshire Mobile Libraries**

Chapel End, alternate Thursdays 2.05 - 2.20pm  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, etc

No service on December 25<sup>th</sup>, for some reason...

For renewals or enquiries please ring 0845 045 5225

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## **Highways Department**

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, three councillors and the Parish Clerk walked Great Gidding with a representative from the County Council Highways Department.

The following issues were noted (responsibilities in brackets; CC being County Council and PC being Parish Council):

Main St	verges (CC), potholes by Rec Field (CC), fence at the Jitty (CC), marker posts opposite Somersby House (CC).
Mill Lane	salt bin (PC)
Chapel End	kerb drains, road damage (CC), PC sign by pond(PC), BT covers (PC to request)
Gains Lane	salt bin (PC), hedges (CC), gully (CC), surface water (PC to monitor)
Luddington Rd	potholes and footpath (CC)
Crossroads	Reflectors to be straightened (CC)

Subsequently, the road damage down Milking Slade Lane was also noted for Highways attention.

Parish Council has since agreed to replace the salt bin in Mill Lane and obtain quotes to renovate two benches and the Village sign.

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## **Departures**

We note with sorrow the recent passing of Tony Woods and Mary James. Our thoughts are with their families.

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## **Other Contacts**

### **Amenities Committee**

Chairman Mary Read; Tel.: 293657  
Secretary and Booking Officer Debbie Garner; Tel.: 293754

### **Churchwardens**

Mr John De Val; Tel.: 293417  
Mrs Lois Jordan; Tel.: 293178

### **Baptist Chapel**

Rev Albert Mulligan; Tel.: 293525

### **Friends of St Michael's Church**

Chairman Patrick Jarvis; Tel.: 293271  
Secretary Michael Keck; Tel.: 293357

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