

THE LMBA

NEWSLETTER **December 2010**

www.longmelford.co.uk



Firstly an update on the proposed changes to the LMBA, as mentioned in the last newsletter, then some news and information.

LMBA changes

In our last newsletter, we shared our plans to change the structure of the LMBA, to encourage more members to be actively involved and make the LMBA work better for us all.

We are proposing changes to the LMBA constitution and a draft is attached for you. The key changes are:

- All members are equally responsible for the LMBA and its activities.
- The current committee is replaced by a monthly meeting which all members can actively take part in. Just attend when you can.
- Small teams will be set up to manage activities e.g. a Website team, a Member Communication team. Some teams will be formed temporarily, for example, to organise a special event.
- You can join a team, even if you cannot

make the monthly meetings. This gives Members a way of getting involved on a more flexible basis.

We all have busy lives but we simply cannot do everything members ask for without all of us pitching in to help.

Of course we really want to hear your thoughts on these proposed changes to the constitution, so that we can add your input before a final version is circulated. We would like to invite you to join us for an informal get-together at The George and Dragon, 6.00pm on 24th January 2011, to hear your views but also to meet for a drink and a chat! If you cannot attend in January but have some comments to share, please contact Laura: laura@applewoodllp.com or on 01787 312191.

The final version of the revised constitution will need approval at a Special General Meeting, to be held in March, 2 months notice will be given. We will also be seeking a new Chair in time for the May AGM.

Banner Advertising

We are now trialling banner ads on the Long Melford website. If you would like to take part in the trial, please contact Sarah: 01787 378957, landers_bookshop@btconnect.com

Christmas Extravaganza

Thanks to Camilla for all her hard work in organising this event, we all know how much time and effort it takes. Your feedback so far is that this was more successful than last year, which is great news.

Unfortunately, the extreme weather played a part in keeping people away and also stopped some stall-holders from attending. The children's rides could not get here due to the snow. This was all very frustrating but many traders saw increased business over there weekend, which is fantastic.

We can use the lessons learnt, good and bad, to plan an even better event next time. If you have any thoughts or ideas, or would like to get involved with the next event, contact Ann on 01787 881361 or ann_hrды@yahoo.co.uk



Christmas Trees

We have a records number of Christmas trees this year and the village really looks lovely. Thanks to Alex for organising again this year.

Street Furniture / Display of goods

LMBA representatives had a constructive meeting recently with some members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has asked us to pass on the following message:

Suffolk County Council Highways has recently contacted the Parish Council in response to complaints received from the public regarding the high amount of street furniture (tables /chairs /benches), 'A' Boards and display of goods for sale along Hall Street.

Pedestrians claim that these items often cause obstruction and create 'trip hazards', in particular for people with pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

Suffolk County Council has advised the Parish Council that a licence should be applied for before any items are placed on the highway. This does not apply where traders own the land used for this purpose or on the small greens that run alongside

parts of the highway.

The Parish Council would like to ask that all traders ensure the footpaths are kept clear at all times. In addition, any items displayed outside premises should be kept close to the building in a single row. If some level of control or agreement on the amount of items on the highway cannot be agreed we have been informed that Suffolk County Council will proceed to have ALL items removed and consider prosecution of offenders. The Parish Council are very keen to avoid this course of action if at all possible and would ask traders to work together with us in resolving this issue.

We have also been asked to advise traders, in the event of an accident caused by street furniture, goods or 'A' Boards, the owner of the items would be liable for any injury to the person(s) involved.

To discuss this further, or if you have any ideas/comments on how we can uniformly address this situation, please contact the clerk, Linda Goodban on 01787 378084 or via email: longmelfordpc@btinternet.com

Those attending the meeting were struck by how keen the Parish Council were to limit inconvenience to LMBA members and for a

working compromise to be reached. It seems that if we are all considerate of the public and overall appearance of the village that we should have far fewer problems than in Sudbury where A boards etc are banned altogether.

News or Information to share?

If you have anything you would like to share in the next newsletter, do let us know. Contact Sarah at landers_bookshop@btconnect.com or by phone 01787 378957.

Would you like to join the LMBA?

You can find more information, join and pay on-line at www.longmelford.co.uk, or contact Debbie at the Barber Shop on 01787 373745.

Missed the last newsletter?

This is available on the website, or contact Sarah at the Landers Bookshop on 01787 378957.

Have you paid your LMBA subs?

Please pay online or contact Alex on 01787 375434, alex@lyallantiques.com