

# Charvil Village News

Spring 2016



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**Inside this issue:**

**New cricket square approved for EPF Playing Fields....**

(find out more on pages 1 & 24)

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## **Editorial**

I hope you are enjoying our new format of the Charvil News and agree the covers are looking fantastic thanks to the brilliant photography and design skills of Fiona Mowlem, who is a great addition to the Charvil News team. I should also like to thank Shirley Newman who proofs the newsletter and organises our team of volunteers who deliver the publication to every house in the village. It really is a team effort to produce this publication and my thanks extend to all involved.

If you have any articles you would like to include or any suggestions to improve the newsletter further I would love to hear from you.

*Liz Black, Editor*  
[thelizblack@gmail.com](mailto:thelizblack@gmail.com)

## **Chairman's Foreward**

Hopefully by the time the next newsletter comes out Charvil Parish Council will be running the football fields and pavilion on East Park Farm. We have been in detailed negotiations with Wokingham Borough Council about transferring the area to community control and expect to come to an agreement very soon. We will make it easier to book the building for community events and hope to encourage more users to a vastly under-utilised facility.

You can look forward to the sound of leather on willow in the summer months, or perhaps all year round if the players are hardy enough, as we've had planning permission granted for an artificial cricket pitch to be installed in-between the two football pitches. The contractors will soon be on site and we will be arranging additional grass cutting through the summer.

April sees Mr Hicks' appeal against the refusal of permission to develop the field opposite the primary school on Park Lane. We don't want to see any houses built in the 'green wedge' that separates us from Woodley so fingers crossed the planning inspector makes the right decision!

Back in March I was invited to attend a Rogue Trader/Scam Awareness event jointly hosted by Thames Valley Police and Wokingham and West Berks Trading Standards. The meeting was chaired by the BBC's Matt Allwright and was full of good advice on spotting attempts to defraud us and our neighbours.

I don't want to go over everything that we were told on the day but there

were a few important messages I'd like to share.

If you feel you've been the victim of a scam please don't be embarrassed. Tell someone – the police, a friend, a family member. Don't feel stupid. There is a scam for everyone and some of them can be quite sophisticated.

"IF IT'S OUT OF THE BLUE – IT'S NOT FOR YOU" is a good rule to remember. You've reached whatever stage you are in life by making your own decisions. When you wanted a bag of compost you popped to the garden centre to buy one. You didn't wait for someone to knock on the door with one. So why would you buy fish at the door? Why would you let someone dig up your drive because they've 'got some tarmac left over from a job up the road'?

The police want to hear from you. If you've been the victim of a scam call the 101 non-emergency number but if you think a crime is in progress you should phone 999. You might prevent a neighbour falling victim.

Lastly I'd like to extend an invitation to you all to join us on 11th May, at the Village Hall, for the Annual Parish Meeting. We're going to tweak the format a little bit this year to make it a bit less formal. It's a chance for you to meet the councillors, hear what we've been up to over the last year and for you to raise any matters of concern or interest - as well as enjoy a little cheese and wine!

*Chris Drew, Chair, Charvil Parish Council*

## **Edited Extracts from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings**

### **Meeting held On 16th November 2015**

Open Forum – Chief Fire officer Andy Fry and Paul Jacques attended to talk about fire prevention and community resilience. The fire service has been very successful in targeting the "at risk" households, and helping them with fire prevention techniques (smoke alarms etc), and as a result, the number of emergency call-outs has halved since 2010. The service would like to try to reach the vulnerable in areas they haven't managed to make contact with yet, but need to tap into local knowledge, as many of these people are not known to any authority. Because the fire service has been so successful in reducing demand for emergency call-outs, there may be a temptation to think fire stations could be shut down, but this would be a false economy. To ensure their continued existence, the fire service is trying to be more active in the local community, by helping the ambulance service, reaching

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emergencies first and helping people until the paramedics arrive; reaching out to troubled youngsters to give them a positive role model; helping the elderly with fire prevention systems and promoting healthy lifestyles. Community resilience is something the Parish Council could help with as they have local knowledge, and they can work with Wokingham Borough Council's emergency planning officer. If Parish Councils have an emergency plan, then this can help enormously, as it can ensure people's safety when dangers have been identified. It can be as simple as having a bank of telephone numbers of contacts/vulnerable people etc. It may be that the Village Hall has been identified as a site for emergency shelter, or it can collate local information on where the most vulnerable people live. Once the presentation had finished, the Chairman thanked them for coming and they left at 8.55pm.

Environment – Cllr McCann has met with Simon Bartlam and Rachel Chopping of the Charvil School. The original site that the school liked for the Forest School would be too expensive to make safe, but it may be possible to create an area in the open piece of land beyond the stream in the Country Park. Cllr. Mowlem was concerned that this is an area used a lot by dog walkers, and suggested that it would be better to use part of the land the other side of the stream nearer to the car park. The Chairman wasn't sure about this area, but Cllr McCann is to meet with Rachel Chopping again to see which site would be her preference, and Council will take it from there.



Simon Bartlam can give the Forest School some willow to start off with.

Amenities Committee – Further to the discussion in Open Forum (see above), the clerk was asked to request the minutes of the governors' meetings at Waingels College for this Spring, as it was felt that there is a profound misunderstanding on the part of the governors as to what is being asked of them. It was resolved to reduce the price of the vegetable plots to £30 per year, and £15 for a second one, from 2016.

Highways – The clerk reported that she had been in contact with the Neighbourhood Police team who gave a list of options as to what action could be taken to try to reduce speeding on the Old Bath Road. After some discussion, the clerk was asked to get in touch with Hurst Parish Council, who has a machine to monitor speeds and quantities of traffic, but does not record number plates. The idea is to gather data to see whether further action needs to be taken. The clerk has contacted Hurst who would be happy to place the sensor for a period of nine days, and would then send the Parish Council the data, which can also be shared with the Police, subject to Council approval.

A second Highways issue was the lack of warning for the recent road closure in Twyford. The clerk was asked to write a letter complaining about the lack of consultation, and the poor signing of the road closure, leading to traffic chaos in the area.

### **Meeting held on 12th December 2015**

Donations – After some discussion it was resolved to award £300 to Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre, £300 to Keep Mobile and £900 to Charvil Pre-school which was agreed unanimously. The clerk was asked to write to The Link Visiting Scheme to apply again in the summer with more information.

Environment – Cllr McCann reported that Simon Bartlam has delivered some willow to the school and has cut a cross in the vegetation in the area beyond the sports pitches on the other side of the stream so that the school can plant the willow there. Simon Bartlam had also sent a report that they have started cutting down the vegetation near the stream in Charvil Meadows, and have also started to clear the stream.

Highways – The clerk reported that the speed monitoring camera had been installed for a week on the Old Bath Road, and once the data had been collated, it would be sent to the clerk and the Chair of Highways. The clerk

was asked to write to thank Hurst Parish Council.

### **Meeting held on 18th January 2016**

There were five residents present to or discuss planning application 153307. Four of the residents live adjacent to the site, at the Model Cottages on the A4 between Charvil and Sonning, and they ran through events from the end of November, when the applicants moved onto the site. They explained that the new owners cleared the site of all flora and fauna, and put hardcore and tarmac down as hardstanding for the caravans and vehicles now present on the site. They believe the application is invalid because it is retrospective, and object strongly as there has been a history of failed applications on this site because it is designated countryside, and is an important “green wedge” between Charvil and Sonning/Woodley. The councillors looked at the plans and written objections, which the residents explained further, and after asking a few questions, the chair thanked them for coming and they all left at 8.25pm.

To consider the idea of conducting a Parish Survey to inform the development of a five year plan that reflects the wishes of residents – the Chair of Finance ran through the rough idea of a parish survey and reflected

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upon one done in 1993. There was much discussion on how best to get a good response, and it was felt that a variety of media may be necessary to get as big a response as possible. Council were in favour of this idea and it will be advertised in one of the next editions of the Village News.

Highways – The Chair of Highways ran through the report from the speed survey conducted before Christmas, which, while it did not appear too dramatic, illustrated the number of cars that approach both the zebra crossing, and the side roads at excessive speed was far too high, given the number of children and elderly residents in this vicinity. The clerk has sent the report to the local Police, who will conduct enforcement days sometime in the near future. One idea that was suggested was improving the lighting at the crossing, and also the clerk was asked to pass a copy of the report to the school to gather their views.

### **Meeting held on 15th February 2016**

Village Hall- There was to be a fresh appeal for someone to do the floor plan for the Village Hall.

Report from the Borough Parish Liaison Group- Cllr Jeffery reported that they had a talk from someone about Flooding and the measures Wokingham are trying to put in place to alleviate the problem. They would like the parishes to take a role in co-ordinating flood wardens but Council has had little success in recruiting anyone to become a warden. There was also a report on the five year housing supply, which Wokingham believes they can defend, and the Local Plan. Cllr. Jeffery will ask to have TPO's added to the next agenda.

### **Planning Matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings**

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

152753      Application for proposed erection of a two storey side and rear extension to 140, Park View Drive North

153084      Application for the proposed single storey rear extension to 7, Charvil House Road

153109      Application for proposed two storey rear extension to 65, Park View Drive North

153162      Application for the proposed erection of side and rear part single storey, part two storey extension and demolition of existing garage at Westo,



## Milestone Avenue

153295 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey, part two storey front extension to include front dormer and single storey rear extension at 93, East Park Farm Drive

153481 Application for the proposed erection of a part single storey part first floor side extension to include a new front entrance following demolition of existing garage at 12, Quantock Close, Charvil

160100 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to form a conservatory at 35, Cheviot Drive

160123 Retrospective Application to convert existing garage to habitable accommodation at 44, East Park Farm Drive

160155 Application for proposed conversion of existing roof space to habitable accommodation with front dormer at 23, East Park Farm Drive

Council made comments on the following applications

152833 Application for proposed erection of 1 x detached dwelling with associated amenity space and parking. Demolition of existing double garage at 1, Park View Drive South – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council wishes to object to this application on a number of grounds.

1. The Council feel this development is out of keeping with the street scene on Park View Drive South, where most dwellings are large, detached and in generous grounds – particularly at that end of the road. This development would appear out of keeping with the general spaciousness of surrounding dwellings on the same road.

2. While each dwelling conforms to Wokingham's minimum number of parking spaces, no provision is made for unallocated parking spaces. The Council believes that this will inevitably lead to on-street parking on Park View Drive South, near a busy junction with The Old Bath Road. Council believes this to be a potential safety issue.

3. Council are concerned that this development would affect a very established safe route to school, both for those travelling to the senior Piggott school, and for the smaller children travelling to the Charvil Piggott school.

4. Council feels that there is insufficient amenity space for such a large

home, and that this would be out of keeping with the area.

153307      Application for the proposed use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 2 gypsy pitches together with the formation of utility/dayrooms and hardstanding ancillary to that use at land adjacent to Model Farm Cottages, Bath Road, Sonning – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council wishes to object to this application on the following grounds.

1. This plot of land has been subject to a number of planning applications in recent years, and Wokingham Borough Council has been consistent in refusing any development beyond the footprint of the old farm buildings that the present cottages and barn are built on because the whole golf club complex and the fields on the north side of the A4 present a vital green gap between the settlements of Sonning and Charvil. To allow this application would be severely damaging to the continued existence of this green gap between the settlements, and could create a precedence for future development on land that is classified as countryside.

2. Wokingham Borough Council recently completed its consultation on traveller sites, and at present it concluded that there were enough sites up until 2019, and that it had a list of suitable sites that could accommodate the further 52 pitches that the Authority estimated as necessary by 2029, and this site was not one of them. Given the existence of a policy for such sites, it would be setting another dangerous precedent to allow a traveller site on this land.

3. This planning application contains a number of material errors, which Council believe make this application invalid. For example, there is reference to a mains sewer, and there is no mains sewer on this site; it states no development has started, but hardcore and tarmac have been laid, and caravans are already in situ; it is claimed there is a sustainable drainage system, but there is little evidence of this. It is Council's understanding that this application is a generic model used by this agent on many sites, and not taking into account the specifics of this site, and these errors are indicative of this.

4. This plot was important to the biodiversity of the area; unfortunately, all the plants and wildlife were cleared from this site before the application was lodged; however, the wider area is still of importance to local wildlife, and any further development will be detrimental.



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5. There are no proposed parking spaces on the plan, which would appear to contravene the local planning laws, particularly for a traveller site with spaces for mobile caravans. Moreover, Council is already concerned about vehicles joining the dual carriageway that is very busy, with fast-moving vehicles – this development is only going to increase this hazard.

6. Wokingham Borough Council has invested much time, energy and money drawing up its core strategy, undertaking consultations on all aspects of its development plans, and latterly adopting a policy on traveller sites, which Council applaud as it should all allow for sustainable development. It would be a great shame if all these efforts prove fruitless when confronted by an application such as this, which is clearly designed to abuse the systems that have been put in place.

160160 Application for the proposed erection of a replacement dwelling with integrated garage following demolition of existing bungalow at Thatcher's Mead, Thames Drive. The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to support this application, because Council feels this is a worthwhile effort to alleviate the flooding problems this property suffers from, without having a negative impact on neighbouring properties. Council also feels it would enhance the visual impact of this property.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:.

152312 Application for proposed single storey rear extension to form a conservatory at 20, Pipistrelle Way

152392 Application for the proposed erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear/side extension to 57 Old Bath Road

152373 Application for proposed erection of a front porch and shower room at 25, St. Patrick's Avenue

152510 Application for the erection of a four bedroom dwelling at 1, Milestone Crescent

152635 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a single storey rear extension at 45, East Park Farm Drive

153058 Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed conversion of loft space to create habitable accommodation to dwelling with flat roof rear dormer and installation of front rooflights at 3, Righton Close

150325 Full planning application for the continuation of siting of a mobile home for occupation by an agricultural worker at Newlands Farm, Loddon Drive

153084 Application for proposed single storey rear extension to 7, Charvil House Road

153109 Application for proposed two storey rear extension to 65, Park View Drive North

FULL DETAILS OF ALL APPLICATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON: [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

<b>Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2016</b>	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Village Hall & Amenities
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May 2016</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May 2016</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Village Hall & Amenities
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	Village Hall & Amenities
<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> August 2016</b>	<b>Planning and Finance</b>
Meetings commence at 8pm and are held in the Village Hall, Park Lane. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings	



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### Charvil Parish Councillors

Chris Drew	Chairman of Council	954 5424
Liz Black	Vice Chairman of Council and Newsletter	901 7980
John Davies	Village Hall Management Committee Chairman	934 5258
Jim Gillett		969 7156
Jackie Jeffery	Planning	969 0834
Paul Mundy	Amenities	934 4253
Lauren McCann	Environment	934 1372
James Bell	Finance	934 5221
John Hobson		934 4913
Fiona Mowlem	Highways	07957 867636

### Parish Council Officers

Miranda Parker	Parish Clerk	901 7719
Tracy Ray	Assistant Parish Clerk	07850 234363

## **Borough Councilor's Report**

I am writing this report towards the end of March and am looking forward to Easter and then hopefully a better summer than average with some exciting advances expected for Charvil.

Before then I will be attending the appeal over the plans to develop the field off Park Lane, commonly known as Hick's Field. You may be aware that Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have repeatedly refused development of this field, primarily on the grounds that it will erode the settlement boundary between Charvil and Woodley and would be unsustainable given that we have relatively few amenities and transport services. Hicks have now appealed against the latest refusal and the case will be held by the Planning Inspectorate in April. The Planning Inspector is an executive agency of central Government, effectively "standing in the shoes of the Secretary of State" and independent from WBC. In the absence of compelling new information coming to light, I do not see how this development can benefit Charvil and will be making this view clear to the Planning Inspector.

I was really heartened to see and participate as around fifty Charvil residents joined the annual litter pick. This resulted in more than sixty bags of rubbish being collected along with five old tyres, a car alternator and three traffic cones in the back of my old Zafira as I swept around collecting quite a lot of it. Our village is a special place and we are lucky to have amenities such as the country park, the fishing rights, the MUGA, the new school and other facilities compared to the situation of just a few years ago. Litter, most probably generated by non-Charvil residents, drags it down and a short concerted burst like this makes a big difference.

Even more positively, I can report that the Parish Council has now agreed to take over the pavilion at East Park Farm from WBC and run it for the benefit of the community. Contracts are now being agreed and I expect the transfer to occur in late spring or early summer. I am sure this will result in a better run, better maintained and more accessible facility and I hope we will eventually turn East Park Farm into our "village green" rather than an unloved municipal facility. The idea has also become a model and exemplary



case for a new WBC policy on community asset transfer, so Charvil is influencing WBC policy with our advanced thinking.

There are also a couple of less radical improvements scheduled for Charvil in 2016. The junction between Waingel's Road and Park Lane under the railway bridge is going to be re-designed, such that cars turning left into Waingel's Road are pushed further to the right and can see better under the bridge. I have tried this approach and it really does make quite a difference and means that drivers shouldn't need to pull out so far to see if the road is clear. There is also a rolling programme of streetlight replacement, replacing old fittings with new LED lights which are cheaper to run and have fewer carbon and other emissions. 178 lights are due to be changed covering many of our major roads. Precise dates are not finalised as I write but I will update you when I have them.

You are probably aware that Charvil will hold a local election for your Borough Councillor on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016, alongside an election for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and potentially the Parish Council. I encourage you to use your vote, however you vote. Many people seem to neglect their right to apply for a postal vote if they are going to be away or simply unable to get to the polling station on the day. Postal voting rights are straightforward to obtain by downloading a simple one-page form from <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/>



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I have decided to stand for this election and will await Charvil's judgement on my work to date with interest. It wasn't a difficult decision for me now that my wife has overcome her battle with breast cancer and I can be confident that I can spare the time to do it.

Please contact me on [charvilfirst@virginmedia.com](mailto:charvilfirst@virginmedia.com) or 9345892. Alternatively, go to the contacts page on <http://charvilfirst.webs.com> and complete the automatic form. I look forward to hearing from you,

*Nick Ray, Borough Councillor*

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**Chairperson, *Lesley Jarvis* -Tel 0118 9342374**

## Charvil Village Society



The Charvil Village Society is not a money raising organisation, but we do like to support good causes within the local community where we can.

Following the successful donation of a bench last year, representatives from the committee returned to Charvil Piggott Primary School earlier this year to attend an assembly and present a second bench for the children.

### Forthcoming Events

The committee has also been looking ahead and planning events for the next 12 months. The February Barn Dance, that has been popular in the past, was postponed this year due to lack of support. We'd therefore welcome suggestions for social events, so please contact us if you have a good idea.

By far the most popular event is the bi-annual quiz in January and September. So much so that the committee plans to hold a third quiz in November. The January and September events are normally over-subscribed, so this may be the opportunity for new teams of 8 to book a table. Please contact Roger Burns if interested (Tel: 9345524).

**Provisional dates** (to be confirmed) for Village Society events in 2016 are as follows:

#### **July, 2016: Annual General Meeting, Committee Room, Village Hall**

Open to all members of the Village Society.

The date and time will be published on our website at: <http://www.charvil.com/clubs-and-societies/charvil-village-society/>



#### **Saturday September 24, 2016: Village Quiz at 7:45 pm**

Details and bookings through Roger Burns - Tel: 9345524

Bring your own drinks and nibbles,

£7.00 per person

**Early booking essential**

## Saturday November 19, 2016: Village Quiz at 7:45 pm



Details and bookings through Roger Burns - Tel: 9345524  
Bring your own drinks and nibbles,  
£7.00 per person  
**Early booking essential**

### Green Sheet

Because of the prohibitive cost the committee has decided to no longer print the 'Green Sheet' with details of events. Instead we will email event details to members who have opted in, as well as posting information on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.charvil.com/clubs-and-societies/charvil-village-society/>

If you would like to receive event information from the village society, please drop me an email at: [markabe@btconnect.com](mailto:markabe@btconnect.com)

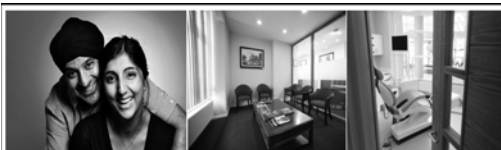
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## Charvil Pre School

With Spring in our step and the longer days, we all can't wait for the summer to start. The children have been very busy in their new garden with planting seeds and bulbs.

The School has introduced new Online Learning Journeys, which has been well received by staff and parents. We would like to thank Charvil Parish Council for their donation.

We had a few new starters at the school and we hope that they have settled in. The Pre-school is quite close to full capacity, so please get in contact to arrange a visit.

Please see our calendar for all events at the pre-school. <http://www.freewebs.com/charvilpreschool/>

Our next big event will be at the Charvil Fete, where we will run the refreshments area. We would appreciate your attendance.

## Charvil Community Tennis Club



**Taster Open Day 9th April  
10 - 2 PM WELCOME**



**+Adults**

Lessons are split into the age groups.



Please contact for further information:

[www.charvilcommunitytennis.org.uk](http://www.charvilcommunitytennis.org.uk)

Email: [membership@charvilcommunitytennis.org.uk](mailto:membership@charvilcommunitytennis.org.uk)

Phone: 07447 934700 (Carl - Chairman)



The next Stay and Play Day will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, between 10:00 – 11:00.

Please contact email - [adm1n.cpc@hotmail.com](mailto:adm1n.cpc@hotmail.com) for booking or more information.

We are currently recruiting for a new Administrator. The role will be for 20 hours per week and rate of pay will be £9 per hour. Please contact us on 07776 137 918 or e-mail.

We would like to thank the whole Charvil Community for their support.

*Johannes Burger,  
Committee Chair*

## The Piggott School , Year 7 Chinese New Year Assembly

There was much excitement and colour when the Year 7 students studying Chinese presented their assembly about the Chinese New Year to the rest of Year 7.

Each student was dressed in traditional Chinese costume as they introduced themselves to the Jade Emperor. They were all representing animals that make up the Chinese zodiac.

The students spoke in Chinese but held up their animal so that the students watching knew what they were saying. They spoke loudly and clearly and sang a Chinese song with great enthusiasm.

This was followed by a question and answer session in the format of 'Who wants to be a millionaire'. The assembly finished with a typical Chinese custom of gifts being distributed to each of the students in Year 7, much to the delight of the students.

At the end of the week the Year 7 Chinese students took their assembly to Charvil Piggott Primary School as the pupils there had made Chinese lanterns as part of their celebrations for Chinese New Year. The primary pupils particularly enjoyed the lion heads.



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## Twyford Library

### What's On for Adults:

**Knit and Natter** - Drop in for knitting and a chat.

Third Tuesday in each month 2pm to 3pm

**Reminiscence Club** - Discuss memories of days gone by.

First Tuesday in each month 10.30am to 12noon

### Twyford Author Book Group\*

First Monday in each month 2.30pm to 3.30pm

### Twyford Tuesday Reading Group\*

Second Tuesday in each month 2.30pm to 3.30pm

### What's On for Children and Young People:

**Little Explorer's Bunny Storytime** - Rabbit themed story and craft, for children age 7 and under. £1.50 charge. Just drop-in!

Monday April 4 2pm to 2.45pm

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**Twyford and Ruscombe Floral Art Club** meets at Jubilee Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm. We are a very friendly club with about 40 members who all enjoy the beauty of flowers. You are most welcome to come along one evening as a visitor.

At our meetings we enjoy watching and listening to talented demonstrators who create stunning arrangements with fresh flowers. Many meetings are entertaining and we are able to have lots of fun whilst at the same time being inspired to have a go ourselves. During some meetings throughout the year, we have workshops and we create arrangements using beautiful flowers and foliage from our gardens.

Some of you may have seen our work last year when we placed little bouquets around Charvil and Twyford, to celebrate National Flower Arranging Day, which takes place during May. Please look out this year as we plan to do this again. If you are lucky enough to see a bouquet you can take it and enjoy it at home or pass it on to a friend. We enjoyed hearing from those who found them last year and it was exciting to find out where our flowers had been enjoyed.

This year we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – We have lots of celebrations planned to mark this landmark. Our big public event, to which you are all invited, will be an exhibition of 50 years of flower arranging in St Mary's

Church, Twyford, Saturday 23 July from 10am to 4pm. Come along to enjoy a cuppa and cake and see what our talented members are able to produce. You can be assured of a warm welcome and be amazed at the beautiful arrangements, on show.

Our year ends with a big open meeting at Loddon Hall and everyone is welcome. If you come along, you will be inspired to decorate your home with flowers during the Christmas period.

We look forward to sharing our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with you.

If you require more details about the Club please contact Pearl Stephenson 01189 343024

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## Jewel Tones

In rehearsals the choir worked on several new pieces in preparation for a concert on February 27<sup>th</sup> which was shared with the Reading A440 Choir at St Mary's Church, Twyford. Both choirs sang pieces from their repertoire and then joined forces at the end to sing 'The Lord bless you and keep you'. Proceeds from the concert were shared between choir funds and Daisy's Dream.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> Jewel Tones took part in the final of Let's Sing Reading at The Hexagon. This competition is organised by the Mayor of Reading. Fifteen choirs took part this year. Jewel Tones started by singing a short medley of songs from 'Les Miserables' and were delighted to be selected to go through to the second round where they sang 'Fields of gold'.

The final event of the term was the regional heats of the Choir of the Year competition which took place in Warwick.

The summer term sees the girls working towards a concert on June 26<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm - at St Mary's Church, Twyford which they will be sharing with Sound of Voices from Neath and the Waverley School Choir from Wokingham. Tickets are £5 and will be available after Easter from Suzanne on the contact details below. The choir will also be holding an Open Evening on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Charvil Hall between 6.15 and 7.45pm for any girls between the ages of 10

### **Sonning and Charvil Junior Cricket Club**

The cricket season is fast approaching and we are open to new registrations from age 5 upwards although some squads are already close to full. We have different programmes for each age group and have held ECB Club-mark Registration since 2012.

Our popular outdoor programme for 5 and 6 year olds commences on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 1030 at Blue Coat School and every Sunday until 31<sup>st</sup> July. This is a great balance for complete novices and young cricketers with a mixture of exercises and games with a cricket theme with the focus on activity and fun. We use plastic bats and soft balls to avoid accidental injury during high spirited moments. It's best if you contact us beforehand but you can just walk up and pay £5 per session on the day.

We are also running teams at U9, U11, U13, U14 and U15. All of them will compete in the Berkshire Youth Cricket League (BYCL) and no doubt be keen to replicate the trophy-winning successes of previous seasons. Most home matches and training are held at King George's Field, Pound Lane in Sonning but we are delighted to be bringing some junior cricket back to our historic home of Charvil with the advent of the new artificial pitch and the Parish Council's adoption of the pavilion.

Please contact me on [scjcricket@ntlworld.com](mailto:scjcricket@ntlworld.com) to receive the 2016 season programme and supporting information as it becomes available. A number of teams were oversubscribed last season so don't delay. Further information is available on our website <http://sonningcc.com/Junior.aspx?id=10>

*Nick Ray, Founder and Coordinator, S&CJCC*

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