

# Charvil Village News

Winter 2020/21



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**Inside this issue:** Be part of the new Neighbourhood Plan  
(see back cover)

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## Editor's Introduction

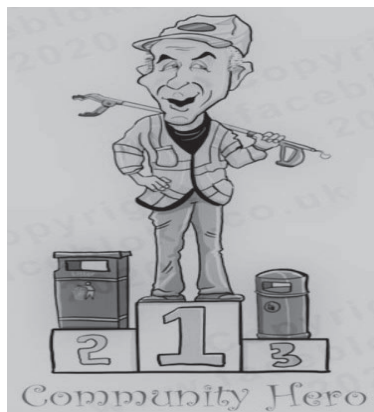
Whilst the longer nights have been drawing in, reminding us winter is here and the end of the year approaches, it appears that many residents are wishing to lift the spirits and also say a firm farewell to 2020 by decorating their houses with Christmas lights much earlier this year and this fun spectacle seems to be far more widespread in the village than ever before. It is truly heart-warming to see the lovely sights around Charvil from dusk onwards – residents have gone to so much trouble to put a smile on people's faces. I would like to say a big thank-you to the Twyford and District Round Table for organising Santa and his sleigh to visit the streets of Charvil again this year, that certainly brought excitement and good cheer.

In spite of the dark nights, cold and miserable weather and ongoing restrictions, we should try to remember that as winter comes, surely spring cannot be far behind.

Wishing you a happy, prosperous and, of course, healthy New Year – we hope you enjoy this latest issue of Charvil Village News.

Amanda Burton, Assistant Clerk

Congratulations again to Roger Burns on his retirement earlier this year. Unfortunately as the Annual Parish Meeting had to be cancelled we could not show our recognition as planned so a socially distanced presentation took place instead. Thank you Roger for all your efforts and good nature over the years, you are our Community Hero!





## **CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD – WINTER 2020**

I have just re-read my previous Foreword, and it seems that very little has changed since then, and in particular regarding the COVID restrictions. Back to 'lockdown' again, as the more 'hard-of-thinking' amongst us choose to ignore the rules which are there to protect us. Unfortunately, that also means locking-down the Council's village facilities again. Let us hope that this current lockdown does at least then permit us to enjoy some limited degree of Christmas family celebrations. Given the above restrictions on our activity, I have much less to update everyone about in this third Foreword since the COVID pandemic hit us.

As regards the Parish Council, I previously mentioned that three valued Councillors had retired from the council and that we had received applications from a number of other candidates. I am now pleased to advise you that we have now confirmed three new members to the council, which has brought us back up to the full-strength of ten. Mike Heath joined us in August with a strong business and project management background and with considerable international experience. Hilary Jones joined us in October. She is a qualified secondary school science teacher, has lived in the village many years and also has a keen interest in the uniformed groups (Scouts/Guides etc.) within the village. Finally, Narinder Ryatt also joined us in October. Narinder is an experienced Quantity Surveyor which will be extremely helpful as we consider how we can improve the rather dilapidated Pavilion at East Park Farm (see below). I take this opportunity to welcome each of these to the Council and to thank each of them for giving up their time for the benefit of the village.

As regards other matters involving the Council, we are currently in the early stages of developing a Neighborhood Plan which, once completed, will give the Council considerably more influence over upcoming Planning issues. However, as part of this process we will definitely be seeking considerable input from Charvil residents; so please be prepared to attend meetings (once they are permitted!) and also to respond to questionnaires from the Council on this.

Related to the above, those regular users of the East Park Farm fields, tennis courts and Pavilion will already know that the Pavilion is in a poor state of repair, and its limited size makes it unsuitable for many users. Given the inevitable future growth of the village, the Council is therefore debating how this facility could be improved to enable wider use by residents and local groups. Again, this is a current matter for discussion within the Council, and we welcome input from residents.

While discussing the village facilities, the Parish Clerk has also asked me to mention the use of the recreation field at St. Patrick's. For those who are unfamiliar, this area (the football pitch, children's Play Area and surrounding ground) is rented by the Council from The University of Reading.



The football field is then rented from the Council by AFC Reading as their 'home ground', and they have spent considerable sums improving and maintaining it for their matches. Residents are welcome to use the recreation ground, and parts of this area may also be used by other groups, but only after contacting the Council beforehand (contact the Parish Clerk or Assistant Parish Clerk), so that we can ensure that there is no 'conflict' with other users, and particularly with AFC Reading.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish all residents a festive (and COVID secure!) Christmas and New Year, and hopefully the Spring will bring us an effective (and copious) vaccine, so that we can all return to normality. Keep safe all,

Jim Gillett, Chair: Charvil Parish Council

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

### **Meeting held on 20th July 2020**

**Open Forum** – Hilary Jones and Mike Heath joined the meeting to introduce themselves, with a view to joining the Parish Council by co-option in September. Francesca Hobson of Wokingham Borough Council joined the meeting to explain about the natural floodwater scheme for the river Loddon the Borough is exploring. Although the Environment Agency is responsible for reducing the effects of fluvial flooding, because not many homes are directly affected in the Borough, the area is not seen as high priority – the main problem is the flooding of roads. The idea that the Borough is exploring is to reduce the flow of the river south of the M4 in Shinfield, so that when it rains heavily, this area floods, rather than the villages downstream. A third-party landowner in Shinfield is happy to help as they were looking to do some research into wetlands, and this would provide the right environment. It may also be possible to have a small hydro-electric scheme. It would also improve the ecology of the area. The Borough is hoping to secure grant funding from central Government for this scheme, which will cost millions of pounds, as the Government are more interested in infrastructure than before, but applications are looked on more favourably if there is joint funding with the towns and parishes, which is why the Borough is asking the Parish Council for a contribution. Council asked for information as to how much other Parishes have committed to this project, and more detail on the feasibility of the scheme. Francesca Hobson is to send this information to the clerk. The Chairman thanked her for attending and she left at 8.28. The two prospective councillors then introduced themselves, each giving a brief biopic and reasons why they are interested. They stayed for the duration of the meeting.



**To consider a request from the Borough Councillor to contribute to the cost of improving the road surface on Milestone Avenue** – The Borough Councillor had explained previously that originally the funds were to come from the Borough Council, but on closer examination by the engineers, the work was going to cost far more than first envisaged. As most of the residents want the work done, they are prepared to pay for it themselves, but the Borough Councillor wanted to know whether the Parish was willing to pay £20,000 (which is 40% of the precept) toward the project. She explained that the road would not be adopted but would be maintained. The Parish Council felt that to spend such a large amount of money to benefit relatively few residents, who had chosen to live on an unmade road, was not the best use of Parish funds – if it were to benefit the whole of the northern part of Charvil, they may view it differently, but the Parish priorities should be on schemes that will benefit as many residents as possible, so it was resolved not to accept this request which was carried unanimously.

**To consider one S137 grant application from Keep Mobile and one ordinary grant application from Wokingham's Citizen's Advice** – It was resolved to give £500 to Keep Mobile and £700 to Wokingham Citizen's Advice. It was noted that the latter organization had been pivotal in the Borough's Covid response.

**To hear an update on the preliminary work on the CIL project** – Cllr. Mundy explained that the company he approached for giving an idea of the cost of the project estimated that it would be between £500,000-£750,000 depending on various unknowns. The question is, does the Council want to commit to such a large project, and the general feeling was that if WBC were happy to allow the changes to the lease, then given the population of the village is set to increase, and the needs of groups like the Scouts are to grow, then such an investment would be prudent. Cllr. Mundy, the clerk and the Chairman are due to meet with Mark Redfearn of WBC and they would report back at the next meeting.

**Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting via Zoom on 6th July were noted. Cllrs Hartley and Andersen are due to meet some representatives of Earley Orchards to discuss the viability of the Village Hall park site for an orchard and will report back in September. Wokingham have been approached about the possibility of the asset transfer of both this site and one off Mendip Close for vegetable plots. The Borough Councillor reported that the appeal for Newlands Farm is due to be heard in early August. If the appeal fails, then there is a fresh application that she has asked to be listed. An idea had been raised that there should be colour coded walks in the Country Park and the Clerk agreed to contact Simon Bartlam to see what he thought. *Clerk's note: the idea has been received positively, so hopefully Council can move forward with this in conjunction with WBC.*

It was agreed that Mon 27th July was a suitable date for the Annual Parish walk.





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**Amenities Committee** – The meetings of 13th July via Zoom were noted.

**To consider and approve the quotations for gates at East Park Farm** – it was agreed that the assistant clerk should ask for examples of previous work from the various people who have offered quotations, and that a decision would be made at the meeting at the beginning of August on one of the options up to the value of £3500, ex VAT.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Keward for all his hard work and his resignation was noted.

### **Meeting of the Finance and Planning Committees held on 3rd August 2020 via Zoom**

**To consider the revised quotes for the gates for East Park Farm and to approve one of them, up to a value of £3,500** – It was resolved to approve the quotation from CD Wall Gates and Automation for £2160, and if necessary, to pay half the cost at the time of placing the order which was approved unanimously.

**To hear an update on the preliminary work on the CIL project and to approve the costs for the initial drawings to start the process properly with the Borough Council** – Cllr. Mundy explained that the Chair, the Clerk and he had met with Mark Redfearn of WBC onsite the previous week, and had discussed the various ideas that had been put forward in terms of sites, and also, the Parish Council's concerns regarding the current lease. Mark Redfearn explained that if the Parish could get some Borough Councillors to support them, then it should be possible to alter the lease from the standard model, and if the Parish can persuade the Borough that they have a coherent plan that would be supported by the residents and would improve the amenity of the village, then despite obvious hurdles like planning regulations etc., the possible problems should be surmountable. The first thing the Parish needs to do is to provide a site layout of what is currently there and what are our preferred options for siting a new facility, what size it would be and what facilities it would provide. This would need to be professionally done and Cllr. Mundy proposed using the company he is familiar with to undertake this initial work as they are already familiar with the concept and should be able to produce something reasonably quickly. It was agreed that Cllr. Mundy would find out the initial cost, and if it is not too high the work can be done with the Clerk's and Chairman's approval. *The cost should be somewhere in the region of £1800, which was satisfactory to the Clerk.*

### **Meeting of Planning, Environment and Highways held on 7th September via Zoom**



**Highways** - The response from Reading Cycle Campaign (RCC) regarding the cycle path in Charvil was noted – their issues with the route are much more technical than our immediate concerns regarding maintenance. Cllr. Andersen was to go back to RCC to see if they can add weight to the need for regular maintenance of the track. The Cycle Design Guide published by the Government was noted and it was suggested that the requirements in this regarding maintenance could be used as a lever to push for WBC action. CPC have been approached by Woodley Town Council to support their motion to ask WBC to put an off-road cycle path along Waingels Road. The Committee was very supportive of this idea and the clerk has been asked to convey this support, and to see if a proposal can be put together to put to the Borough. The campaign for a pedestrian/cycle bridge between Shiplake and Wargrave seems to have been well supported by residents on both sides of the river, and CPC will continue to monitor the progress of this campaign. CPC has been approached for their views on the possible naming of the Close that is going to be built to replace Jubilee Hall as Jubilee Close. Council is unanimous that this would not be a popular name given the history of the site and would prefer “St Patrick’s Close”. *Clerk’s note: St Patrick’s Close is seen as confusing, so the name put forward to the Post Office is “Old Church Close”.*

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**Environment** - A meeting was held with a team from Earley Community Orchards at the park behind the Hawthorns, and they felt that this would be a suitable site for a community orchard. They felt 30 trees could be planted in groups of six. They have kindly shared their planting list with us so that Council has a starting point. The next step is to decide whether to push for a full asset transfer, or just to ask if we can plant the trees as a community project as part of our climate emergency response. This needs to be decided upon by Full Council. The clerk met a representative of WBC's housing department and looked at the sites off Cheviot Drive and Mendip Close about developing more vegetable plots, and he had no objection. The clerk is to write to all immediate residents and some of the councillors and residents will deliver it to try to garner the support needed for this project to go ahead. The Environment Survey and Draft Energy Audit of the Hall were noted, and the clerk has been asked to provide a year's worth of gas and electricity use to see whether it is worth investigating renewable power sources. Some of the internal roofing tiles have slipped, and it was requested that when the roofer puts them back in place, he could take some pictures to see if there is any insulation up there. Cllr. Hartley is still investigating bat boxes. Cllr Andersen and the Tree Warden hope to complete the tree survey before the Veteran Tree Association close their database at the end of the year. There are plans to commemorate the dead from Covid-19 in the Borough with a new wood

### **Meeting held on 21st September 2020 via Zoom**

**Open Forum** – Narinder Ryatt attended the meeting as a prospective Parish Councillor. He introduced himself and gave a brief resume of himself and his interest in joining the Council. He stayed for part of the meeting but had to leave at 9pm.

**Co-option of new Councillors** – Mike Heath and Hilary Jones were officially co-opted by the Council by signing their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and other paperwork. This will be passed to the clerk for countersignature.

**To approve the appointment of Cllr. Mundy to the role of Chair of Amenities and to choose and approve a new Chair of Finance** – It was resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr. Mundy as Chair of Amenities and Cllr. Jackson as Chair of Finance, both of which were carried unanimously. Cllr. Jackson also agreed to become a signatory



**To hear an update on the preliminary work on the CIL project** – Cllr. Mundy gave a detailed account of the three main options, which are at present the south side of the football pitches, the present location or where the tennis courts are currently situated. There was a brief discussion about whether grant funding would be available, and the clerk was asked to set up a fresh meeting with Mark Redfearn, and it was approved that Cllr. Mundy is to ask for computer generated pictures of these options.

**To Note the progress with the community orchard and extra vegetable plots and to consider whether Council would prefer to take on the area behind the Village Hall as an asset transfer or to try to work with Wokingham to designate the area as a Community Orchard as part of the Climate Emergency response** – It was explained that as far as the Community Orchard idea, it was envisaged that Council would facilitate this rather than directly driving it, and as this was the case, would rather not get involved in an asset transfer. The clerk was to see what options were available. As far as the vegetable plots were concerned, the next step is to see whether the neighbouring residents to the proposed plots were happy with the idea, and if so, Council would progress with a possible asset transfer. Any associated costs would be recovered through the rent from the plots.

**To Note the willingness of the Countryside Service to collaborate on display boards for the Country Park (at least one to be on Charvil Parish Council land) and to consider the principle to help fund these** – It was agreed that these were a good idea, and the clerk has been asked to find out how much these signs are likely to cost. Council were at this stage, only willing to look at spending £1500. *Clerk's note: each sign will cost around £4,000.*

**To Note the Parish Walk was completed by a group of Councillors on Monday 27th July** – This was noted

**To consider any progress made with discussions regarding Tennis** – Cllrs Jackson and Gillett and the Assistant Clerk met with Ed Francis to discuss possible coaching arrangements at the tennis courts. Ed Francis is a Level Three coach, and he has a group of other local coaches who are keen to offer coaching in Charvil. He would need both courts, and it was agreed he would have a discount on the second court. It was agreed that passes would be increased to 60, and he would agree specified times for his coaching sessions with the Assistant Clerk. The Chairman is to prepare the agreement and pass round for comment.

**To note the recent issues with the traffic lights on the A4** – There had been serious problems and disruption, but after much protestation on the part of residents, they are now working.



## **Meeting of Planning, Environment and Highways Committee on 5th October via Zoom**

**Highways** - Cllr Andersen had been in touch with Reading Cycle Campaign regarding the state of the cycle paths, and they are happy to meet with us. WBC must conduct a survey to see if there are works that need doing before anything can happen. RCC are in active talks with the Lead on Highways at the Borough Council and are supporting the Wokingham Active Travel Campaign. It was noted that there are still repairs to be done on the A4 crossing but the lights are currently working.

**Environment** - The issue of dog fouling on the pitches at East Park Farm was discussed, and it was decided to take a recommendation to Full Council to promote keeping dogs on leads around the pitches, and to try to promote this through the school. The Veteran Tree Association wants to plant a disease resistant elm somewhere in the Borough to celebrate 30 years of tree wardens, and it was decided that East Park farm was a suitable location. Cllr. Andersen was to ask the tree warden to write something in support of this location.

## **Meeting held on 19th October 2020 via Zoom**

**Co-option of new Councillors** – Narinder Ryatt was officially co-opted by the Council by signing their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and other paperwork. This will be passed to the clerk for countersignature.

**To consider the quotations for a new defibrillator to be installed in the phone box on Park View Drive South and approve the cost of installation** – It was approved to buy the same model of defibrillator as at the Pavilion, and the cost of installation were approved.

**To Note the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and to consider how to progress with consultation in the Covid environment** – It was agreed that something should be put on the website and Facebook to promote the Plan and to ask for volunteers to help with this. Cllrs Heath, Gillett, Sutcliffe, Andersen, and Hartley are willing to lead this, and former councillor Greg Elphick is willing to help. The clerk is to ask the Twyford clerk how they are progressing as they are a few months ahead of Charvil.

**To Hear an update on the preliminary work on the CIL project** – In the absence of Cllr. Mundy, the Chairman ran through the current position; that there are three possible sites in the mix – where the building is currently, on the present tennis courts (which would be relocated) or on the football pitch by the stream (pushing the pitches further north).



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Council needs to develop a business plan to see whether the costs of a Public Works Board Loan could be serviced by potential revenue of a more flexible, attractive building, and that it will not take business away from the current Village Hall. What is evident, is that the building needs to be as flexible as possible, with a possibility of extending upwards at some point in the future, if not now. Cllr. Hartley feels that in the absence of public meetings, Councillors will have to knock on doors to find out what residents think – possibly in the form of a questionnaire. Cllr. Jones would like to be involved in any steering committee for a new building.

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

#### **The Council had no objection to the following applications:**

- 201429 Full application for the proposed extension of existing dropped kerb on Land adjacent to 111 Old Bath Road
- 201494 Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 161453 for the proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling (amendment to previous consent 152833). Condition 2 refers to the approved details/ documents and the variation is to allow the change of the garage to a study/store, creation of habitable accommodation in the loft with 2 no. rooflights, and changes to fenestration. (Retrospective) at 1a Park View Drive South
- 201525 Application for proposed erection of a detached double storey garage with 4no. roof lights and first floor habitable accommodation at Ashley View, Beggars Hill Road
- 201633 Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 82 Old Bath Road
- 202063 Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey front extension to form an atrium, a part two storey part single storey rear extension with 8 no. rooflights, replacement attached double garage and changes to fenestration, following part demolition of existing dwelling and detached double garage at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue
- 202266 Householder application for proposed erection of a first-floor side extension and a single storey rear extension including the insertion of 4no. roof lights at 23 Thornbers Way
- 202604 Application for the proposed extension of existing dropped kerb at 111 Old Bath Road
- 202642 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension at 7, Charvil House Road



## **Council Comments on the following applications**

- 201928 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form a porch with canopy roof and 1 no. roof light, a first floor front extension and a first floor rear extension with 2no. rooflights and Juliet balcony, plus removal of 1 no. chimney at 17 Charvil House Road – The Clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council were concerned that the site plan is rather misleading as the area bordering 17 Charvil House Road to the rear looks like a miscellaneous piece of land rather than the garden of 15C this may have some implications for whether a Juliet balcony is suitable in this context.*

- 202106 Full Planning application for the proposed erection of new meeting hall following demolition of existing meeting hall, relocation of three metal storage containers, plus car park improvements with the installation of a cycle stand at Paddick's Patch, Waingels Road – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council would like to support this application as it should enhance the site in the long term*

- 202502 Householder application for the proposed erection of a two-storey front extension, part single storey, part two storey side/rear extension, single storey side extension to create garage, plus the insertion of 7no. roof lights, following demolition of existing garage, dining room and family room at 3, Strathmore Drive – the Clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council have the following concerns about this application:*

- 1. This would appear to be over-development of the site and out of keeping with the street scene.*
- 2. It creates a massing effect on a road that is characterised by its low density and as such is overbearing.*

## **The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:**

- 201299 Application for the proposed erection of a detached ancillary outbuilding following demolition of existing shed at Ramblers, Beggars Hill Road
- 201466 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 1no roof light at Rowanlea, Old Acres Lane
- 201783 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of an outbuilding to form home office at 45 Chiltern Drive



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- 201633 Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 82 Old Bath Road
- 201887 Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing conservatory at 103 East Park Farm Drive
- 201928 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form a porch with canopy roof and 1 no. rooflight, a first floor front extension and a first floor rear extension with 2 no. rooflights and Juliet balcony, plus removal of 1 no. chimney at 17 Charvil House Road
- 202332 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of an outbuilding to the rear of existing dwelling at 2 Charvil Meadow Road
- 202266 Application for proposed erection of a first-floor side extension and a single storey rear extension including the insertion of 4no. roof lights) at 23 Thornbers Way
- 202020 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension at 31, The Hawthorns
- 202120 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed conversion of the loft above the detached garage with 2 no. rooflights, 1 no. first floor window and 1 no. door at 7, The Hawthorns
- 202063 Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey front extension to form an atrium, a part two storey part single storey rear extension with 8 no. rooflights, replacement attached double garage and changes to fenestration, following part demolition of existing dwelling and detached double garage at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue

**The Following Application was refused by Wokingham Borough Council**

- 201314 Application for the proposed raising of roof to create additional first floor accommodation, with the erection of two storey front/ side extensions and a part single storey, part two storey rear extension, following demolition of existing garage at 11, Old Bath Road
- 201444 Full planning change of use of buildings and land from agricultural use to general industrial use (Class B2). Removal of two unlawful structures (Retrospective) at Newland Farm, Loddon Drive
- 201525 Householder application for proposed erection of a detached double storey garage with 4no. roof lights and first floor habitable accommodation at Ashley View, Beggars Hill Road



201909 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed replacement of dark green vertical tile with light grey horizontal boarding. Replacement of white upvc windows and doors with mid-grey aluminium windows and doors, and rendering buff coloured brickwork with white coloured through-rendered) at 47 Chiltern Drive

**The Following Application was withdrawn**

201429 Full application for the proposed extension of existing dropped kerb on Land adjacent to 111 Old Bath Road

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

**The Following meetings are scheduled but because of the Covid-19 Crisis, meetings may continue via Zoom unless it is advised we can meet in person. If anyone has questions, please e-mail the clerk**

<b>Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2021</b>	
04 January 2021	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
11 January 2021	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>18 January 2021</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
01 February 2021	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
08 February 2021	Amenities Committee Meeting
<b>22 February 2021</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
01 March 2021	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
08 March 2021	Amenities Committee Meeting
<b>15 March 2021</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
22 March 2021	Staffing Committee
29 March 2021	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
12 April 2021	Amenities Committee Meeting
<b>19 April 2021</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE. RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS	



<b>Charvil Parish Councillors</b>		
Jim Gillett	Chairman of Council	<b>969 7156</b> chair@charvil.com
Paul Mundy	Chair of Amenities	<b>934 5258</b> paulmundy@charvil.com
Claire Andersen	Chair of Staffing	<b>07500 931091</b> claireandersen@charvil.com
Pat Sutcliffe	Councillor	<b>07788 100935</b> patsutcliffe@charvil.com
Jane Hartley	Chair of Planning	<b>07879 427350</b> janehartley@charvil.com
Roanna Collis	Councillor	<b>07717 437308</b> roannacollis@charvil.com
Neil Jackson	Chair of Finance	<b>07809 591134</b> neiljackson@charvil.com
Mike Heath	Councillor	<b>07902 306381</b> mikeheath@charvil.com
Hilary Jones	Councillor	<b>0777 5796362</b> hilaryjones@charvil.com
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	<b>07957 345652</b> narinderryatt@charvil.com
<b>Parish Council Officers</b>		
Miranda Parker	Parish Clerk	<b>901 7719</b> clerk@charvil.com
Amanda Burton	Amenities Manager and Newsletter Editor	<b>07850 234363</b> bookings@charvil.com

## **Borough Councillor's Report**

As we come to the end of 2020 nobody could have foreseen this year that has been lost not only to the sadness of loss of life but also to those who fell ill with the virus.

WBC have worked hard with the food hubs, working along side the Wokingham Citizen Advice, Thames Valley Police and keep up the running of issues within WBC whether this be adult /children services, roads. The officers within WBC have worked hard and I know that some feel they have had to wait for responses to questions and assistance. All staff within WBC were working remotely and we had to deploy members of staff to assist with distribution of PPE thus causing a shortage within the various departments.

WB have been very lucky, Wokingham's Covid 19 rates have been reasonably low and although a slight increase recently, we are still ahead keeping this under control. I also want to thank the residents of Charvil, for your positive approach to this virus, we have had a large support group and we are still here if you need help or assistance, you can always contact me for assistance with WBC, Citizen Advice, I will be able to direct you to the



We still have a long way to go, its painful its difficult, but please keep yourselves, your family and friends safe at all times. As the saying goes, "no pain no gain".

### Scams

This sadly has been on the increase especially during the Covid months. The NHS Track & Trace is free, under no circumstances do you need to make any form of payment. PPE can be purchased from pharmacies; the scammers are using PPE to gain funds from individuals.

Scammers are also using the issue of banking and HMRC, these are fake yes, a number of people use their phones for banking issues, but please note that banks won't phone you. If you are not sure, of a call before you give any information ask a question yourself, i.e. "what is my monthly mortgage", "what is my standing order for Gas Electric etc", if they can't answer it's a fraud. A number of calls are being undertaken by the BT scammers. They are saying "you have not used your WIFI and internet, therefore we will be cutting you off", this again is a scam. If in doubt hang up. Please stay alert.

### Police officers:

We have new Police officer and PCSO's joining Sergeant Ashlee beginning of September. PC Adam Young, PCSO's Ed Hobart and Emily Treadgold.

Foster Caring: WBC have a shortfall of Foster Carers if you would be interested in fostering please contact WBC or give me a call and I can direct you to the right people to talk to.

### Milestone Avenue:

I want to confirm that back in February/March 2020 I notified everyone in Milestone Ave of the proposal to tarmac, this I had confirmed recently by a resident who confirmed to me that yes, they do recall I wrote to all concerned. I didn't include Thames Drive, of which I apologise. During that time, I only received one complaint to the proposal. Charvil were given money from development which had to be spent in Charvil. If it was not spent now, we would have lost that money and Milestone would never happen, this was our last chance. After a final vote which was 51% for 47% against and 3% who wanted to wait a bit longer. Andrew Fletcher has worked hard for the village and I ask that you don't take this decision out on him, he has put all effort in to try and find a balance.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a very safe New Year, may 2021 be healthy and positive for all concerned and hopefully will see us all heading back to normality.

I can be contacted on [emma.hobbs@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hobbs@wokingham.gov.uk) or 07788 403841

Emma Hobbs



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CHARVIL STORE

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## Charvil Stores—New Ownership

Charvil Stores on Park View Drive South has recently been taken over by new owners who are very keen to return the store to a community friendly store. The store is now back under Nisa supply, which has a partnership with Co-op, to provide the Co-op food range - a trusted and well known brand.

Charvil Stores will also be the host storage of local government bin bags (blue bags, brown garden waste sacks and the green food waste caddy bags), helping the council and making it more convenient for the community to get their council bin bags. The blue bags and brown garden waste sacks can be purchased directly from Wokingham Borough Council and collected from the store upon the presentation of a receipt.

Charvil Stores is eagerly trying to bring the Post Office back to the store for the community, along with newspaper deliveries and a cash machine (ATM). They also have long term plans to start fresh bakery, coffee machine and much more.

Charvil Stores would be glad to have the local community support to guide the store forward, and bring services which help the local community and customers.



**Leave a  
light on...**  
and burglars in the dark

- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise you are away from home on social media
- Register your valuables with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- For crime updates sign up to [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

Be bright and Invest in a light timer switch this winter

 **THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE**  
[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

0653 3095



## **Be bright this winter and avoid becoming a victim of burglary.**

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves and you can take steps to avoid becoming one of their victims this winter.

- Try to make your home look occupied by using timer switches on lights and radios.
- Make sure your front door is illuminated by using dusk to dawn lighting that comes on automatically.
- Consider purchasing and installing a video doorbell, house alarm or CCTV system.
- Close and double lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed.
- Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and away from doors, windows and letterboxes. When not in use, keep electronic car keys in a security pouch to prevent them being scanned by thieves to open and steal your car.
- If you have a key safe, ensure it is not visible to people passing by and anyone tampering with it would be clearly visible.
- Don't advertise you are away from home on social media. Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme.
- Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they are connected to your property.
- Register your valuables with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Further crime prevention information and advice can be obtained from the Thames Valley Police web site at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood. Report online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk), call us on 101 or in an emergency dial 999.

Alternatively, you call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

You can receive free information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

**Email:** You can contact your local neighbourhood team via [TwyfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TwyfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) – please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

**Facebook:** TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

**Twitter:** @TVP\_Wokingham



## **Charvil Parish News**

### **Calling All Gardeners! – Charvil Community Orchard**

What do you think about starting a Charvil Community Orchard?

Community orchards can be beautiful places to grow fruit, improve our diet and provide resources to share with the whole community. Did you know that almost 70% of our apples are imported? That you can grow more than 2000 varieties of apples? That Cox's are sprayed an average of 18 times a year?

#### **What is a community orchard?**

Five trees can constitute an orchard and you don't just need to grow apples or pears. Plums, damsons, cherries (preferably trained as fans) quince, mulberry, medlar and nut trees can all be grown. The community is invited to help with planting and – literally - harvest the fruits of their labours. The orchard can also be a focus for school visits, mark Apple Day (21<sup>st</sup> October), wildlife open days and maybe a Wassail, celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> January, to ensure the fertility for the coming year!

#### **Where to have our orchard?**

An ideal spot would be the area around the playground by the Village Hall, members of Earley Environmental group who have set up their own community orchard, visited and think we have an ideal site which could have up to about 30 trees.

**If you think this is a good idea and are interested helping to get this going please contact me.**

For further information on Community Orchards see <https://www.nhbs.com/community-orchards-handbook-book>, <https://theecologist.org/2011/may/06/what-community-orchard>

*Miranda Parker, Clerk to Charvil Parish Council*

### **Didn't we do well! – but we can do even better! - Wokingham recycling**

Our small actions add up to make a difference. Now that we are recycling food waste Wokingham recycles 50% of all waste. Only 12% of waste taken to our recycling centers goes to land fill down from 62% in 2007. **But** 25% of recyclable waste is still found in blue bags.

Remember:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- 1 tonne of recycled plastic saves 16 barrels of oil
- 1 tonne of recycled papers saves 17 trees
- Waste to landfill is 3 times more expensive than recycling the same waste



## **All those delivery boxes!**

With Black Friday and Christmas approaching, it's important to try and recycle as much as possible this holiday season. If you have any large cardboard boxes these should be broken down and flattened to fit into your black recycling boxes.

Sadly, Polystyrene and bubble wrap, which come with your packages can't be recycled in your black boxes and should go in your blue bin bags.

If you aren't sure with any item you can check our website for a full list of what we can and cant recycle (<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/recycling/what-to-put-in-recycling-box/>).

## **Have you tried the re3cyclopedia app?**

It's available on Apple and Android devices and is one of the easiest ways to find the nearest and fastest way to recycle hundreds of items. Enter the details of the item and your postcode, then the app does the rest.

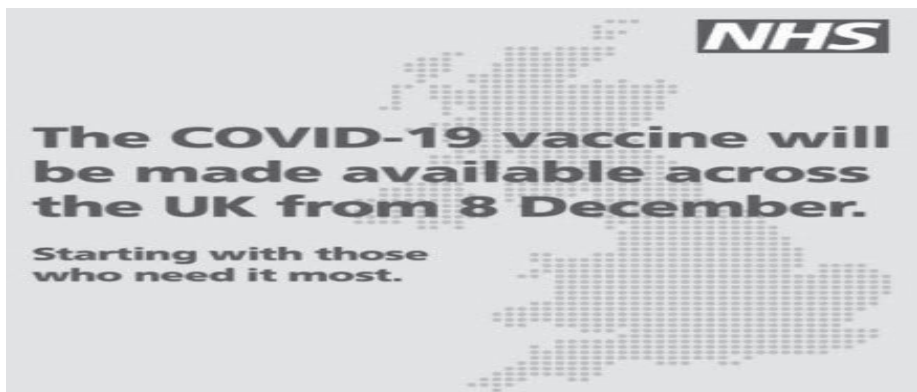
## **Waterproof recycling bags are on their way**

When you receive the waterproof bags, you should start using them. There will be a short period where both black recycling boxes will be accepted, after this point residents should collect additional bags from our community hubs if they require more capacity than the initial two bags.

## **Disposing of Covid-19 related waste**

If you have tested positive for coronavirus, or have symptoms, you should dispose of tissues, cleaning wipes or heavily contaminated waste in a different way to normal. Place the contaminated waste, in a plastic bag or bin liner, tie the top to prevent escape of the material. Then place this bag inside another bag and tie it securely. Please keep these bags for 72 hours before putting it in with your general rubbish (blue bags) for collection or leave them until the next week.

*Jane Hartley, Chair Planning, Environment & Highways Committee,*





## HOW WE CAN ALL RUB ALONG TOGETHER – Dogs on Sports Fields

Over the last few months many residents have discovered the beauty of the area on their doorstep, and have come to appreciate the Country Park, Meadows and Sports Fields as they have been encouraged to take daily exercise on their doorstep, with Gyms closed, car travel discouraged, working from home the norm and such like.

Charvil has always been an attractive place to live for dog owners as they were maybe the largest group to have clocked what was on their doorstep before the pandemic, and it has been increasingly popular with dog walking businesses, who enjoy the easy parking and convenient paths and access to the Sports Field.

It does not take too much imagination to see that dogs exercising and toileting on the sports pitches is incompatible with safe usage of the area by budding football stars, runners, rugby payers and such like, but as a Parish Council, we are also acutely aware of the lack of open, flat spaces to easily exercise dogs, particularly in winter months.

So, we all need to try to see the world from each other's point of view; dog owners need to understand that children don't necessarily want to share their games with other people's pets, or roll in the unseen but ever present remains of dog excrement which is inevitably left by even the most fastidious dog owner, and parents need to understand that pets need exercise, and that there are a lot of them in Charvil.

So, as the Pandemic mantra goes "Be kind and be generous" – please could dog owners keep their dogs on leads when using the sports pitches for exercise, and dog walkers, instead of your circular walks taking onto the sports pitches when leaving your vehicle, please head over the little bridge to the path next to the railway – that way, your dogs are much more likely to toilet on the Country Park than on the field (please still pick up after your charges though....).

And hopefully we can all enjoy our open spaces but not at others' expense!

Thank you





## **Dog poo! – Protecting our children and the vulnerable from Toxocariasis and other infections**

**Toxocariasis** is an infection caused by roundworm parasites. People can catch it from handling soil or sand contaminated with infected animal poo, usually from cats, dogs and foxes. The eggs produced by the worms can persist in soil for prolonged periods, long after the actual poo has been washed away by rain. Children are particularly vulnerable because they are more likely to touch contaminated soil when they play and put their hands in their mouths.

### **What to look for - Signs and symptoms**

For most people, an infection causes no symptoms and the parasites die within a few months.

Some people experience mild symptoms, such as: a cough, a high temperature (over 37C), headaches, stomach pain. In rare cases, the roundworm larvae cause severe symptoms, such as: fatigue, loss of appetite or weight loss, skin rashes, wheezing or breathing difficulties, fits, blurred or cloudy vision, a very red and painful eye and occasionally may lead to blindness.

Speak to your GP if you think you or your child have symptoms that may be caused by toxocariasis and they may do a blood test.

### **Other infections**

Dog faeces can also cause infectious diarrhoea by spreading parasites and germs such as *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Campylobacter*, all of which can be severe in very young children. In other parts of the world, especially in developing countries, there are many other infections transmitted through dog faeces to humans.

### **Protecting your family - Yet another reason to wash your hands!**

The best way to reduce the chances of becoming infected is:

- wash your hands well with soap and warm water and clean under your nails with a nailbrush after touching pets or coming into contact with sand or soil
- teach children to always wash their hands after playing with dogs or cats, after playing outdoors and before eating
- wash food that may have come into contact with soil
- try to avoid letting children play in areas where there's a lot of dog or cat faeces
- teach children it's dangerous to eat dirt or soil

### **Pet owners – how can you help?**

If you have a pet cat or dog, please de-worm them regularly and collect and dispose of poo thoughtfully – in bins provided or in your home dustbin – please do not hang bags on bushes or leave beside footpaths!

Please use dog-exercise areas where you can and avoid sports and play areas.

*Jane Hartley, Chair Planning, Environment & Highways Committee*  
Ref: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/toxocariasis/>



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## **Charvil Village Society – We are still here!**



As you will remember last year we saw a change in the committee membership as some long serving members decided to take a less active role. The new committee came in with lots of ideas to build on the great – and varied – social activities – quiz nights, ten pin bowling, walks, seniors' tea party and more from previous years - but then Covid struck and put paid to most of our plans. However, in

the Spring do look out for the daffodils we have planted on the Park Lane roundabout!

Our next planned event, replacing the Boxing Day walk this year, is a **New Year's walk** on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – further information will be available on the Society page hosted on <https://www.charvil.com/> we look forward to seeing you – in a suitably socially distanced way – please bring your 'bubble'!

Looking to the future please do get in touch if there are events you would like to see so that we can continue with our aim '*to conserve and enhance the character of the village of Charvil as a living community*'

*Jane Hartley, Charvil Village Society, [Janehartley@charvil.com](mailto:Janehartley@charvil.com)*



## **An Anniversary Elm for Charvil.**

There are three active Tree Wardens in Charvil, Claire, Barry and Sarah. They began their training in 2017. However, the National Tree Warden Scheme started in 1990.

To celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this September, the Tree Council invited Tree Wardens to apply for a disease resistant Elm Tree for their area.

In Charvil we decided to make an application for one of these very special Elm Trees which, although already 3 metres tall, will require our attention for the next ten years! The Parish Council have given us their full backing and have been extremely supportive throughout.

Elm Trees were practically wiped out in Britain during the late 1960s when they succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease.

In December 2018, as part of a Butterfly Conservation project, five European White Elm saplings were planted in Charvil Water Meadows. These trees are very resilient to flooding, but do need watering during our hot, dry summers. They also need protection from deer. They were planted in order to attract White-letter hairstreak butterflies as the caterpillars feed on the leaves. It has become part of the Tree Warden role to care for these saplings.

Partly because we have already shown our commitment to caring for our local trees and because we are a relatively new group, we were awarded a 'New Horizons' Elm Tree to be planted in Charvil Country Park.

If you're interested, there is a short clip on You Tube entitled 'Hillier Highlights Ulmus New Horizons', it shows just how amazing these beautiful trees are...and soon we'll have our own in Charvil!

Sarah Swatridge, Tree Warden

## **A random act of kindness...with an important message.**

The Little Yellow Duck Project was set up in the UK in 2014 to make people more aware of the need for organ, stem cell and blood donors.

The way they get their message across is by asking knitters (or those who sew/crochet) to make small yellow ducks which are then named and left with an info sheet for others to find and keep.



If you're lucky enough to find a little yellow duck in Charvil, or in fact anywhere in the whole world, you can register your find via their website.

I've made several ducks and left them to be found in Charvil, prior to lockdown, but so far no one has registered them. It would be nice to know they've gone to a good home!



## Charvil Meadow River Project



This wildlife improvement project was predominantly aimed at increasing the resilience of fish populations in the Loddon itself, but will also have a positive impact on all wildlife associated with the site and River Loddon.

By creating this back water we have provided a safe refuge for fish populations during flood and pollution events and also created a safe zones where fry can thrive in the warmer calmer waters

Other wildlife will then also benefit from this area so will become a haven for kingfishers, dragonflies and Bats



The project was 100% funded by Thames Water and will be one of a number of project to be carried out across the Loddon Catchment.

The Charvil Meadows project is a collaborative project between the Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative, Wokingham Borough Council, the Environment Agency, the Loddon Catchment partnership and the South East Rivers Trust.

Simon Bartlam, Countryside Officer, WBC





## Caterpillar Club

Unfortunately, we have not been able to meet this term and, with current guidelines in place, we remain in a position of not being able to confirm a date for restarting the group. We wish everyone a healthy and enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to being back up in running in 2021. Please do check our Facebook page for any update.

# THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL: CHARVIL PRIMARY

*Our School Captains talk about learning through a pandemic*

## STUDENTS BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF LEARNING AND FUN

This year has been a big challenge for schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the first lockdown was over and students came back to school, Charvil Piggott has done its best to keep students in a healthy environment. We are washing our hands four times a day, and assemblies, which would normally take place in the hall, are now pre-recorded for us to watch at the end of the day. Our classes are in their own bubbles and break times are carefully planned so they don't overlap.

As students attending this school, we have gratefully recognised the school's new **Ready, Safe, Respect** rules. We feel very secure in this environment and we feel that the staff are working hard to make sure that we are healthy and safe. This is shown by their care and attention towards all students. We are very grateful for all the work they have done in helping us catch up with the schoolwork that we missed.

We wish all students and their families a very Merry Christmas.

Erin Goodall and Willow Morris (School Captains 2020-21)



Above: School Captains Erin and Willow



Follow us on Twitter or  
visit our website for  
more information  
[epiggottCESchool](https://www.piggottCESchool.org)  
[www.piggottCESchool.org](https://www.piggottCESchool.org)





## The Piggott School—Wargrave Senior



### School Captains team up to build a strong and connected community in the year ahead

In 2020, four students, Sophie Errington, Harry Daisley, Maisie Jamieson and Chloe Eames were, after a rigorous selection process including a digital speech and a staff/student vote, elected by the school community to be our School Captains.



Recently awarded an honourable mention in the Gonville and Caius College Schools' Prize Competition in Natural Sciences, Harry is really proud to be selected and says he is "keen to create a really robust, strong community within The Piggott School and think about how we can make the community stronger for everyone; teachers, students and parents."

Coming from the Holt School in Henley only a year ago, Chloe felt honoured to be elected by staff and students and is keen to bring some new ideas and make a difference to school life. She believes this role will set them up well for years to come. "The opportunity to interact with different kinds of people to develop skills will be good for us in business because different groups will have different needs and wants that we need to address," said Chloe.

Maisie has had this title in her sights since she started at The Piggott School in 2014, "I'm a leader and I knew this is what I wanted to do, and everything I've done has been leading up to this. I feel I'm quite fair and kind and I like to listen to the ideas of others. This role will definitely give us life skills and I feel older and more respected."

Finally, Sophie is really pleased to take on this role, "I feel really proud to represent my school and ever since I came here in 2014 I have wanted to be in a position of leadership. All four of us have different qualities that will make us a really good team."

Apart from a busy year ahead academically, the School Captains will work hard to fulfil the role, acting as the liaison between the student body and the rest of the school community. They will be expected to chair Student Council meetings and report back to the Governors each half term about the activities taking place in each year group.

Our School Captains send a heartfelt message to our local community, *"We all wish you a Christmas that's merry and bright and a new year that is full of peace, joy, and happiness."*

For media enquiries or photo opportunities please email Allison Holloway, Marketing and Communications to [HollowayA@piggottschool.org](mailto:HollowayA@piggottschool.org)

The Piggott School: Wargrave Senior

The Piggott School: Charvil Primary

Every Child, Every Lesson, Every Day



## Sonning CE Primary School



Presenting our new School Council members:



We would also like to take this opportunity of introducing this terms Year 6 Prefects.



Other than working hard in their lessons the pupils have been busy with donations for the Harvest Festival and striving to raise money for Children in Need. We have also been very lucky to have received a new outdoor speaker used for the 'Daily Mile' activity sessions and PE lessons, this was funded by a family within the school community.



Busy working behind the scenes are the hardworking PTA team who with the last Happy Bags Collection managed to raise £427.05—well done everyone!



## Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

As we were only able to hold three meetings this year, due to the Corona Virus we are giving our existing members free membership for this coming year 2021. Most of the Demonstrators who had to cancel this year thankfully have agreed to come back to us for 2021. Of course, this is only possible provided our lives are back to normal?

We are fortunate in having a dedicated Committee and members. Some Clubs are possibly having to close due to lack of folk willing to serve on the Committee.

If and when we are back to our normal monthly meetings we will hold a few fund raising events ie; Coffee Mornings, Afternoon teas, combined with 'bring and buy' sales which have always proved popular. Visits to Open Gardens or visits to other Societies to support them

We are keeping our members posted, either by email or telephone etc. on any progress we are making.

Hopefully 2021 will prove a better year and we thank our members for their support and diligence and wish them all a Very Happy Christmas considering the unknown circumstances we are living in.



## **Jewel Tones**

Jewel Tones is a choir for girls between the ages of 10 and 18. Rehearsals are held at Charvil Village Hall on Sunday evenings between 6.15 and 7.45pm. We have been having rehearsals on-line during the Autumn term but are hoping to be back at Charvil Hall from January. We have been working on some great new songs including a medley of Disney Movie Ballads, California Dreamin', Inscription of Hope and When You Believe. We are working towards a concert in March at Queen Anne's School, Caversham where we will be joined by a ladies choir called Achoired Taste. We have four spaces for new members so if anyone would like more information, they can get in touch on 0118 9340589 / [suzanneynewman@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanneynewman@btinternet.com)



## **Sapphire**

Sapphire - this is a choir for ladies. We rehearse on Monday evenings. We run short courses - each with a theme. The next one will start in February 2021 and will culminate with an informal performance on May 24th. Our theme is songs from Broadway shows and will include a medley from Oklahoma, I dreamed a dream, For good and Lullaby of Broadway. The second course is a shorter one running for five weeks starting in June. The theme for this one will be 'Coming home' and songs will include Nine hundred miles, Homeward bound, Home and One mile. We have spaces for both courses so if anyone would like more information, they can contact me on 0118 9340589 / [suzanneynewman@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanneynewman@btinternet.com)

## **Charvil Women's Club**

Everyone at Charvil Women's group would like to say a huge thank you to Shirley Newman for running the Women's Club for the last 20 years. She arranged a huge variety of interesting speakers to entertain us and organised summer outings and Christmas meals. We wish Shirley good health and happiness in the future.

### **Would you like to advertise here?**

The Charvil Village News is delivered to all houses in the village.  
Prices start from just £23.  
3 editions per year are produced and there is a discount to put  
your ad in all 3 editions.  
Contact: [bookings@charvil.com](mailto:bookings@charvil.com)





## Charvil Art Group

Hello everyone, all the members of our club send you their best wishes for a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a much BRIGHTER NEW YEAR. We hope you have coped well during the difficult time of the Covid -19 outbreak and with your self isolation. With the possibility of a new vaccine, the future looks brighter for all of us.

Charvil Art Group has had to curtail some of its activities, like weekly meetings and our Annual Exhibition usually held in November, but we have kept ourselves active nevertheless.

A small band of members have been Zoom meeting on Wednesday evenings under the direction of Hilary, our Chairperson, and these meetings will continue next year if there is a call for it. I know that new members or anyone interested would be welcome to join us, just contact Hillary Kaye -- her details are on our website -- or phone her on 01189343595.



When we return to Charvil Village Hall for our regular Wednesday meetings at 7.30pm, (and we will), you will be able to join us and together we'll put this isolation and coronavirus to rest and look forward to a much more positive 2021.

Meanwhile if you have some paints why not get them out and have some fun. Who knows we may see you at Charvil Art Group next year!

Ken Docking (Treasurer)

## Reading & District Cigarette Card & Postcard Club

Like all clubs and societies who use the local village hall facilities up and down the country, we are all looking forward to the time (Spring 2021 ?? maybe) when we can meet again and catch up on the latest news. Our oldest very active member celebrated his 94th birthday at home in October, he attends every meeting, Summer and Winter and cannot wait for the re-birth of (his) Club!!! Then we all feel like that, keeping in touch on the phone has not got the same feel as meeting up, showing off and talking about recent finds and purchases. This shutdown means that the members have had no excuse not to sort out their collections, to research, file away, or sort out the 'wheat from the chaff'. Cigarette card collectors ('cartophilists') specialize in themes, be it military, sport, nature, gardening, transport, selective cigarette manufacturers of the past, collecting either sets or individual examples of sets which embrace the time period from 1890 to 1940.





After 1950 manufacturers, publishers of comics and other merchandise issued 'trade cards' to promote their products covering the above themes, e.g. Brooke Bond tea cards spring to mind, and children's gum and sweets, while cigarette card promotions tended to die out.

Postcard collectors ('deltiologists') collect either topographical (places) postcards, social history, theatre and cinema stars, transport, glamour, artist drawn cards, animals, military, and a host of other themes (even beekeeping, lacemaking, windmills etc), and particular publishers. Mention 'postcards' and immediately most people think of 'Saucy seaside' postcards, these are not so popular, but the humour can still bring a smile and chuckle.

The club members can be divided into both camps, but a few members collect both.

Cards are acquired at Specialised hobby fairs, antique fairs, from other collectors, specialised auctions, and e-bay. The Club runs quarterly auctions and will happily sell any postcards or cigarette cards that would benefit members of the local community, as well as the insatiable collecting appetite of the members!

Further details of this friendly club can be obtained by contacting Roy Sheppard on 0118-9695155, or see our website [www.readingpostcards.com](http://www.readingpostcards.com)

Old postcard showing what was Ye Wee Waif Petrol Station





# **Berks/Bucks/Oxon & Milton Keynes**

## **Virtual Singing for the Brain**

Every Monday

Choose from three sessions:

10.00am - 11.00am

11:30am - 12.30pm

3.00pm - 4.00pm

The sessions can be accessed from a computer or tablet or you can call in by telephone.

For more details please contact:

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## Lockdown tales of spinning and weaving



While Covid has deprived us of many activities and pleasures in our lives, we have, at least, been able to carry on happily spinning, weaving and dyeing in our own homes and connecting regularly online with our fellow Guild members to share our love of crafting.

Our weekly Zoom calls appear normal at first glance, but look again and you'll find our hands are beaver away spinning, crocheting, or tied up with some other craft. We discuss a multitude of topics, including the different qualities of rare-breed sheep wool fibres, the optimum length of time to leave spun wool on the bobbin before plying and the merits of toe-up or cuff-down methods of knitting socks. We're never short of conversation and often divert to completely random themes such as mouse catching, moth infestation, favourite recipes and podcasts.



An important and exciting part of our online meetings is to share our progress with current and completed projects, this helps to inspire and motivate others to experiment with new ideas. Examples of work on the go are crocheted and knitted shawls, scarves and socks, woven and knitted blankets, spinning and knitting camel hair combined with silk, circular tapestry weaving and even Indian Kantha embroidery with hand spun silk thread. In each of the three main disciplines, our Guild members range in experience from novice to expert and all are extremely helpful with advice and resources to overcome any obstacles or concerns we may have in our work at home.

Over the first lockdown we set challenges for ourselves with 'Tour de Fleece', a daily online spin-along during the original dates of the Tour de France. This is an international annual event and has been going for fourteen years. We repeated the challenge in August during the actual time of the 2020 Tour and followed the cyclists over their grueling 3-week event.



At the outset of each 3-week challenge, we declared what we wanted to accomplish in terms of spinning and with the shearing season just finished we had ample supplies of fleece to spin, such as Blue Faced Leicester, Jacob, Cotswold, Lleyn, and British Milk to name a few popular rare breeds. At the end we tallied

and compared our achievements – we all had lots of yarn ready to weave, knit or crochet with!



Each month we have continued our tradition of holding a Saturday Guild meeting, albeit online, and have been entertained with interesting and informative talks from guest speakers. A self-proclaimed 'nettle nerd', Allan Brown, an expert in Medieval textiles, showed us his love of using nettles to spin and weave cloth. He took us through the harvesting of stinging nettles and the labour-intensive process of retting to extract usable fibres for spinning the yarn ready for weaving the ancient nettle cloth.

Other talks have included a guided tour of Japan's rich history of textiles by Jennifer Hughes, who explained it was the custom for many years that decorated and bright textiles were only allowed in the Imperial Court with everyone else wearing dull colours. Also, Sarah Burns's enthusiastic talk on making beautiful hand printed fabrics, using her own designs on lino-wood blocks with locally sourced natural dyes from the South Downs, such as weld, tansy, madder and alder cones.

At the end of summer, it was very special to be able to meet up in person again, like old times, at the Charvil Village Hall. We enjoyed seeing familiar friendly faces at the few socially distanced meetings we were allowed.

Our commitment and enthusiasm for sharing our love of crafting has not been weakened by the onslaught of this pandemic and we very much look forward to 2021 when we can all meet in person and carry on crafting together.

Website: [bswd.org.uk](http://bswd.org.uk) Email: [berks.guild@gmail.com](mailto:berks.guild@gmail.com)

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## The Friendship Alliance

Launched during lockdown and is a project brought together by The Link Visiting Scheme, Age UK Berkshire, Involve Community Services and the Wokingham Volunteer Centre to tackle loneliness, promote friendship and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of residents in Wokingham borough.

We are currently running an online Friendship Café through Zoom on Wednesday afternoons for people to come together weekly for an informal chat and to make some friends. It is also possible to join by telephone.

We would like to encourage local places such as cafés to provide a Friendship Table where people can take a seat, feel free to chat and connect with others. Although we have spoken to some local cafes, with current restrictions still in place, it may be a short while before they are able to offer this.

We are also looking to establish a network of Friendship Champions to promote our services, actively encourage friendships, develop community spirit, and potentially organise activities or host their own groups. Many people have felt the impact of loneliness and we want to do all we can to bring the Wokingham community closer together.

We have a fortnightly e-newsletter with details of activities and services available locally. This is being sent to people who have shown an interest in attending activities as well as other organisations, charities and Friendship Champions who are supporting those in their community. So please do let us know of any activities as they reopen or new start-ups so we can promote them in the newsletter and on our social media channels.

To get involved or for more information, please contact Jayne on 07464 834949 or [jayne@linkvisiting.org](mailto:jayne@linkvisiting.org)



**Low  
Carbon  
Workspaces**

Grants to cut carbon emissions,  
save money & minimise waste

Low Carbon Workspaces are offering grants of up to **£5,000** to help small and medium sized businesses in Berkshire subsidise the cost of upgrading equipment to improve energy efficiency.

Grants between **£1,000** and **£5,000** are available to help fund up to a third of the cost of energy saving projects such as LED lighting, energy efficient boilers, air-source heat pumps, insulation/glazing, and solar panels. The programme has already awarded grants to 15 businesses in Berkshire including a recent grant to Crumbs Food Company in Reading for the installation of solar panels which will help the business save up to 3 tonnes of CO2e per year and **£1,800** a year on energy bills.



The application process is quick and easy, and a dedicated Project Officer in Berkshire will guide businesses through the process, advising them on how to tackle energy consumption, helping to identify suitable projects for funding and providing support to businesses struggling to take their first step towards sustainable practices. The team help appraise projects and offer a green diagnostic to identify additional energy efficiency upgrades and how the scheme may be able to offer funding. In addition to owned premises, both commercial tenants and landlords can reap the benefits of an energy upgrade grant, providing a more comfortable working environment for tenants and their customers, and a more efficient property for landlords. Applications must be submitted by the bill payer.

Programme Manager Daniel Cope says: “Businesses that are on the cusp of carrying out improvements, wishing to discuss sustainable-best-practice, or even hoping to be inspired on where to begin, should get in touch. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognise that many may struggle to carry out energy-improving measures to their businesses, despite ever-increasing energy rates. That’s why we couldn’t be happier to bring this scheme to the diverse mix of businesses in Berkshire to help reduce this burden and build a more sustainable future.”

Low Carbon Workspaces also work closely with suppliers of energy saving technologies, who may be listed on their supplier directory, free of charge. This can help businesses unsure who can implement their project chose a local supplier for their project. Since 2017, the Low Carbon Workspaces programme has assisted over 400 SMEs by delivering a total of over **£1.3million** in grant funding.

The Low Carbon Workspaces team can be contacted on **01494 927131** and at [info@lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk](mailto:info@lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk).

Businesses can check their eligibility for a grant and identify suitable projects at [www.lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk](http://www.lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk).

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