

Charvil Village News

Winter 2022/23



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Inside this issue:

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

After a remarkably mild Autumn, this exceptional cold snap, bringing with it a light dusting of snow and frozen lakes in Charvil Country Park, has reminded us winter is well and truly upon us. A big thank-you to the band of volunteers who brave the elements to deliver this magazine to Charvil residents.

Inside this edition you will find several updates on recent happenings in village life, such as tree-planting, the Community Orchard and the introduction of a donation point for a local Foodbank. We have included details of local groups and clubs which regularly meet in Charvil, in case you are thinking about trying something new in 2023. Plus, there is a guide to the facilities at the Village Hall and the Pavilion.

As always, please do contact me if you have any suggestions or contributions for future editions of this magazine.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year and 2023 – we hope you enjoy this latest issue of Charvil Village News.

Amanda Burton, Assistant Clerk

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

After a warm autumn we seem to be getting the cold weather setting in and I do enjoy the bright cold days compared with damp weather and grey skies.

Councillors

We continue to have changes to the Council membership as we sadly have to say goodbye to David Oppong.

We are setting up 'meet your councillors' sessions at local pubs, this is an opportunity to meet us informally, please see our website or Facebook page for details.

Meet your Councillors

Thursday, 12th January 2023 - 7.30pm at The Wee Waif

Come and join us for an informal chat

Neighbourhood Plan

We have made good progress in our working groups developing the five themes; Housing, Transport, Environment, Flooding and Community. We are now in the process of finding an experienced consultancy to help us put our ideas into the plans and policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. The analysis of the residents' surveys is still available at <https://neighbourhoodplan.charvil.com>. We will be consulting more widely when the draft documents are ready hopefully early in the new year.

Pavilion Redevelopment

The user focus group has been helping us with the plans for redevelopment, however, the escalating building costs have put any full redevelopment on hold. We will be moving forward with finalising and consulting on our plans. We are now looking at more cost-effective work to bring existing facilities up to a reasonable standard with the aim of doing a full redevelopment in the future. This is disappointing but the Council is aware that further significant increases in the precept to our residents won't be welcomed in the current economic situation.

Preschool

The pre-school provider has had to move their opening until September 2023 due to delays in scheduling an Ofsted visit, we are looking forward to supporting this facility for the village.

Queen's Memorial Oak & Community Orchard

Charvil has been very successful in planting trees and hedges for Queen's Green Canopy – thanks to the team of residents led by Councillor Mike Heath, it is great to see families getting involved in building a greener future for Charvil.

Thank you also to Teresa May MP for planting the memorial oak in the Hawthorns Park as a living memorial to our late Queen.

On 10th December, on a lovely cold sunny day, residents planted another 6 fruit trees in the Community Orchard, we are hoping to have some events there next year to celebrate establishing the orchard.

Village fete

Thank you to the Fete committee for organising another successful fete which was held in September. As well as providing a lovely day for the community they raised over £1000 for charity and are making further donations to the four charities nominated for the 2022 fete which were Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire wildlife trust, The Cowshed, First Days Children's Charity, My Cancer My Choices. The date for 2023 will be announced soon.

Planning issues

The Council has been discussing options with Wokingham Borough Council on influencing, and reducing, retrospective planning applications, several of these have been brought to our notice by residents attending the open forum at council meetings. We will let you know if there is more we can do.

Pavement obstructions

Can I remind you that your hedges and bordering planting must leave the pavements clear of obstruction and allow free access for prams and wheelchairs etc.

If you are experiencing difficulty, it may be best in the first instance to ask if hedgerows can be cut back. If that fails these can be reported to Wokingham Borough Council who will write to the relevant resident requesting they are dealt with. <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/countryside-parks-and-conservation/footpaths-and-bridleways/report-problems-with-public-rights-of-way/>

In these difficult economic times and with soaring heating bills please make use of the support that is available – and let your neighbours know if you think they may need some help - including the warm spaces Wokingham are setting up – see contact details below.

Wishing you season's greetings and health & happiness for 2023.

Jane Hartley, Chair Charvil Parish Council

Help and advice for Cost of Living Support & local Warm Spaces

Online: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/warm-spaces/>
<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com>
<https://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/emergencysupport/>
or visit your local library for information

Edited Extracts from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee 4th July 2022

To discuss how best to encourage more sponsors for fruit trees in the Community Orchard

It was agreed that something would be written in the Village News, put on the website and Noticeboards, linked on Facebook, and advertised at the Fete. It was suggested that people could sponsor a tree as a street, or with friends, not just as individuals. If enough sponsors are found, we may look at planting twelve this year.

To note the successful applications for more trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project

It was noted that Councillor Heath had been successful in his applications to the Woodland Trust for more trees to arrive this autumn, and that now there needs to be efforts made to get sponsors for fencing, compost etc.

To decide upon a date for the annual footpath walk

It was decided that this would take place on Monday 25th July at 7pm, beginning at the entrance to Milestone Avenue.

Amenities Meeting 11th July 2022

To note the refusal from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the application to fell the lone lime in poor condition that is located in close proximity to the school playground, pavilion and children's play park at East Park Farm and consider next steps.

The committee reviewed the refusal and conditions laid out by Wokingham Borough Council and have requested the Assistant Clerk to share the findings of the refusal with the tree surgeons who advised the tree needing to be felled and ask for a quotation for the suggested remedial works. Alongside this action, to respond to the refusal by Wokingham and ask them to put in writing that they deem the tree safe and not posing any risk to the public or property and that if the tree were to fall, they would be liable for any damage and costs.

Full Council Meeting held on 18th July 2022

To consider the consultations on the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the amended route from Woodley to Palmer Park

It was agreed that the suggestions for Charvil should be broadly welcomed, but that some of the proposals were vague, and that there were also some

notable omissions, such as improving the facilities from Charvil to the Piggott School. The proposed cycle track from Charvil to Twyford Station is particularly welcome, but there are concerns there may be conflicts with dog walkers given the route of the proposed path goes through the Country Park. Give that the main area of concern for residents in the Neighbourhood Plan Survey was traffic and transport, it would be useful to speak to the team behind this at Wokingham, so that, as far as possible, our policies and plans align with theirs. The clerk has written to them to see if this conversation is possible but is awaiting a reply. As far as the Woodley plan is concerned, it is welcomed if it ties in with a safe route from Charvil to Woodley.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

Councillor Rob Jones updated the Council on the progress of the working groups – the flooding group is having a catch-up meeting before the Traffic and Transport group have their first meeting later in the week. The housing group is to meet on 3rd August. Councillor Rob Jones had attended a meeting on transport for new homes, which had been illuminating, and had provided him with ideas of what the Council should include. The final survey results should be out soon and hopefully these can be promoted at the fete. The steering group think that it might be a good idea to commission its own report on flooding, and there is also progress on trying to find suitable consultants to write our policies and plans.

To hear an update on the Pavilion Project

The Working group had met before the first meeting with the focus group. Three people attended and it was a very useful discussion – the wish list is long, and the cost is increasing under the current economic climate so there are funding issues, and the next step is to get some basic plans of the whole building to inform further discussions – if these come through in time, there will be more meetings on 29th July. There are also issues around the lease as all the personnel on both sides who had discussed this previously are no longer available. *Clerk's note: the plans were received just in time for these meetings.*

Finance and Planning Committee 8th August 2022

The clerk reported that it is likely to see the final three homes of a planning application from 1995 to complete The Hawthorns development next to the park start in the next few months. She explained that if a planning application is started, then any time limits are removed, and that you can apply for planning permission on other people's land, as was the case here – and now they have ownership, they can build. There is currently a nonmaterial amendment to the permission because the materials used in the late 1990s are no longer available.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee 5th September 2022

To note that the next batch of fruit trees have been ordered and that some new sponsors have come forward

A mixture of pears and plum have been ordered and will arrive in November. So far, there are two confirmed sponsors.

To hear and update on the Queen's Green Canopy

Two residents have offered to contribute to the planting costs of the trees. Councillor Heath and the clerk met with Simon Bartlam, and a schedule of planting locations has been drawn up as a result, as most will be in the Country Park, although some will be planted to extend the hedgerow at St Patrick's Recreation Ground. It was noted that this was the hardest place to water. The planting will take place in National Tree Week.

To note that the annual footpath walk took place on Monday 25th July

Several Councillors and some residents took part.

Full Council Meeting on 26th September 2022

Open Forum

Two residents attended, one to listen and one to make some observations on planning. The resident was concerned that a common condition of extensions in Wokingham is the need to try to match existing materials when building extensions, yet Application number 222391 at 2, Park Lane seeks retrospective permission for an extension that uses very different materials to the existing building. The extension being built at Iffliegh, Park Lane, is being built in contravention of the plans both in what is being built, and the materials being used. He is concerned that by allowing retrospective permission to regularise what has been built, rather than what should be built, it is setting a precedent for those that do what they like and then apply, as it is unlikely they will be made to amend what they have already built. Essentially, people are penalised when doing things correctly in his eyes. In addition, by applying for retrospective permission, it often means that there is no party wall agreement, as there should be on occasion. Party wall agreements are not part of the planning process but the same disregard is shown to these as to the planning process.

To approve the plan for the tree planting in November

The plan is to plant 165 trees and hedging plants in a variety of locations in the village, mainly in the Country Park, East Park Farm and St Patrick's Recreation Ground. Several volunteers are needed so there will be an advertising campaign on Facebook and Notice boards. This was approved.

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To note the broken windows at the Village Hall and the ensuing insurance claim, to note further acts of vandalism, and to consider whether the Council should pursue the idea of installing CCTV

The broken windows at the hall were noted, as was the sign at the Pavilion, the pulled-up tree at the hall, and the smashed bottles at the hall as well. It was agreed that the clerk would investigate dummy and real CCTV in other parishes, and that the details of the anti-social behaviour teams at Wokingham and Thames Valley Police would be shared to everyone. It was also requested that the vandalism at the hall is publicised on Facebook.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The next meeting of the steering group is to be held on 30th September. The results of the survey are now on the Neighbourhood Plan website. The focus groups are moving along and are beginning to develop policies. Councillor Jones is now talking to consultants with a view to writing the plan.

To hear an update on the Pavilion Project and whether the Council should investigate the alternative proposal to renovate the existing building and ask the architect to quote for this piece of work

The last meeting of the working group was about the business case, which is the basis for a possible change of plan. After much discussion about progress, costs and possibilities, the idea of asking the architect to quote for conducting a survey of the building was approved. This would enable the Council to make a more informed decision on whether to do basic renovations, a complete renovation, a rebuild on the existing foundations (if that is possible), or to carry on with the original plan. It was recognised that in the current climate, the plan to build a much bigger building is unaffordable as interest rates are increasing rapidly, but that something must be done given the current state of the building. Once properly informed of the possibilities and related costs, the Council would then be able to discuss with residents what the possibilities are and take it from there.

To discuss how the Council might like to commemorate the life and death of Queen Elizabeth II

Councillor Jones wondered whether the Council could plant an oak tree, and possibly to include the School. A site needs to be identified and a plaque erected.

To note a thank you letter from the Fete Committee and to consider what steps need to be taken to avoid the difficulties of this year

The Thank you letter was noted, and the Parish Council are very grateful to the volunteers on this committee who ensure an enjoyable event takes place each year. The difficulties were acknowledged, and many of them stem from a lack of communication between the Fete Committee and the Parish Council. It was suggested that once a Committee had been formed for the fete next year, they attend an Amenities Committee meeting to talk through what the respective expectations are of the two groups, a mutually suitable date for the event, a timetable for paperwork to be received, and other issues that may arise out of such conversations.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee 3rd October 2022

To note the latest information from the Speed Indicator Device

The Speed Indicator device is now measuring speeds as vehicles enter Charvil from the Twyford direction on the Old Bath Road. The speeds are clearly higher in this spot, making very hazardous for residents on this part of Old Bath Road.

The Borough Councillor has asked the Council whether they could investigate the costs of gateway signs as they have in Twyford and Hurst. There is evidence to suggest that they do slow traffic, and this could be useful of Old Bath Road, but there is a lack of suitable roadside on which to place such signs. The clerk was asked to explain this to the Borough Councillor, and if he can come up with some mutually acceptable locations, then the Council will consider investigating costs.

To note conclusions of a meeting with Simon Bartlam regarding the planting locations for ten elms near the stream in the Country Park

Councillor Heath and the clerk met with Simon Bartlam, who was happy for the trees to be planted on the south side of the stream, about six metres from the water, to allow flailing of the brambles every four years. They will be planted during half term.

Amenities Committee 10th October 2022

To hear a report from the Assistant Clerk regarding the recent ground clearance at East Park Farm.

The Assistant Clerk advised that the boundary areas either side and behind the pavilion had been cleared as instructed. There was more debris to clear than originally quoted for as there was a significant increase in green waste left on public land. In addition it has been noted that several houses are siting various bins on the land which need to be moved.

It was noted that back in Spring a letter was to be delivered to all houses that have a boundary with the field informing residents of boundary expectations but this was delayed when Wokingham Borough Council put TPO's (tree preservation orders) on all trees and hedging bordering the field. The Committee would like the letter updated and to also include the costs that have been incurred up to now relating to clearing the area.

To hear a report from the Assistant Clerk regarding the recent fly tipping and land issues at St. Patrick's Recreational Field

The Assistant Clerk advised that it had been reported that old fence panels had been left in the field and that several areas on the boundary of properties appear to have green waste dumped alongside. The Committee reviewed a quotation to have the areas cleared and approved the cost. It was proposed by the Committee that a letter be drafted (similar to that for East Park Farm) detailing the issues and delivered to all houses with a border to the field.

To consider locating a food donation box at the Village Hall for Woodley Food Bank

The Committee agreed to trial a box in the foyer when the hall is open. To be advertised accordingly in various forms – noticeboards, Facebook etc.

Full Council Meeting held on 17th October 2022

To consider whether the Council should pursue the idea of installing CCTV in the light of information from a neighbouring Council

After some discussion, it was decided to defer a decision on CCTV until January, or another bout of anti-social behaviour, whichever is the soonest, as it may be a short-term problem.

To consider the plan to encourage residents to volunteer to help with the tree planting

Various volunteers have come forward from those who helped last year, the Community Orchard group, and the tree wardens. A Facebook advertising campaign will start shortly, in the hope of getting a few more helpers. Councillor Heath will approach Theresa May, to see if she would come along to plant an oak in memory of the Queen, and Councillor Jones is to investigate the cost of a tree and of a wooden plaque. The clerk is to contact Wokingham to get permission to plant an oak in the park behind the Village Hall.

To approve a contribution toward the display boards in the Country Park

£1500 had already been approved for this project in a previous year, and the Women's Club have donated £344 to the Parish Council as a contribution, so it was resolved that the clerk would include a payment of £1844 in the payment run next month for this purpose.

In the light of the issues of fly-tipping and trespass, to reconsider a letter for residents backing onto East Park Farm fields and St Patrick's Recreation Ground

It was agreed that this should be done. The letter was approved subject to some minor amendments to be made by the clerk. It should be delivered by the Chairman as previously agreed.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

There is going to be a face-to-face meeting on 29th October and all the Parish Councillors are invited to attend. The aim is to pull together the themes, policies, and plans that the group think should be included in the Plan, and that would be the basis of what the group would ask a consultant to work on. Possibly the most contentious issue is around land allocation, and it is important that the wider Parish Council appreciates the issues, and how the group and Parish Council could be helped on this by consultants.

To consider pursuing the idea of a mobile Post Office

Councillor Sutlieff has been looking into this upon a request from a resident, and while the service does not have capacity at present, it was agreed this is something that should be pursued, and Councillor Sutlieff agreed to continue to champion this.



Winter Issue

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To hear an update on the Pavilion Project, to note the quotes for two alternative courses of action from SWA Associates, the current cost projections from Sport England and the notes on a visit from the Wokingham Borough Council Energy manager

After a long discussion where various members raised concerns that we have spent a lot of money with no tangible outcome, it was agreed that the Council should opt for option A but that the clerk should clarify whether, if it transpires that rebuilding makes more sense once all the investigations have been done, the cost of option B would be much reduced as much of the work is the same as for option A. It was also agreed that the Council would like to keep the original plan in a dormant state, rather than disregarded altogether, as it may be that once the current world turbulence settles down, the plan can be re-visited.

To note that due to a backlog of work at OFSTED, the Pre-school is unlikely to be able to start before September

This was noted, and the clerk would remain in dialogue with Oliver Cloke.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee 7th November 2022

To note the latest information from the Speed Indicator Device and to decide when to move it to gather data from the other side of the road

The data still suggested that over half of drivers are exceeding the speed limit, and 15% driving over 37mph.

It was agreed that the machine should be moved to measure speeds heading toward Twyford next time the batteries need changing.

It was also requested that in future, it should be moved close to the Wee Waif to remind drivers that they are now in a 30pmh zone.

To note the final plans for the tree planting, including the Jubilee Oak that will be planted by Theresa May

Councillor Heath explained that 165 trees were to be planted by his team of volunteers, including an oak in the Hawthorns park to commemorate the life of the Queen, and that planting will begin on 12th Nov in the Country Park, and will include the planting of the next phase of the Community Orchard and the Queen's oak, which will be planted by Theresa May. The planting will conclude with planting more hedging at St Patrick's Recreation Ground.

Full Council Meeting held on 21st November 2022

Open Forum

Two residents attended to discuss concerns about the current planning application at Iffleigh, Park Lane. Although this is not on the agenda as it will be on the Planning, Environment and Highways agenda for 28th November, the two residents still raised various points. The adjoining neighbour to this dwelling informed the Council that, because the cavity wall had not been sealed, and there was lots of food left lying around on the building site, there are now rats in the cavity. A pest control expert has been employed and hopefully the problem will be dealt with. The second resident is concerned that yet again, there is a retrospective planning application to regularise what has been built, rather than what had been approved to build, and this approach deeply concerns him as it is happening more and more frequently. He is also concerned that in this case, they are intimidating their elderly neighbours, which is immoral. He asked for the Parish Council to write to Sam Akhtar to see whether he could exert some influence on this and similar applications. At the end of the Open forum, one resident left and the other stayed for the rest of the meeting. *Clerk's note: the clerk has written to Sam Akhtar, the deputy leader of the Council, and the lead for Planning at Wokingham on the subject of the cynical use of retrospective Planning Applications.*

To note how the tree planting is progressing

So far, the tree planting has gone well, with many families getting involved. The final session will be on the weekend of 3rd/4th December, and the project is now being supported by WBC, in terms of helping with the costs and helping to ensure a good survival rate in years to come.

The Queen's Oak tree is to be planted on 26th November – the next stage of the Community Orchard was also due to be planted then, but due to the warm and wet weather, the trees were not dormant, and the ground was unsuitable to dig them up, so that has been put back to Saturday 10th December.

The oak tree planting will be advertised on Facebook and on the Notice Boards.

To note the work of the Hardship Alliance and to consider what else the Parish can do to support this

Due to our buildings are unmanned, and there is no staff capacity to host warm spaces, this was not something that could be accommodated in Charvil, but it was felt that it would be useful if we could promote any warm spaces in Twyford. There is now a drop-off point for contributions to the Woodley Foodbank in the Village Hall. It was also agreed that an article would be included in the Village News to publicise any such spaces, and that people could

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

- 222574 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of the existing conservatory at 2, Balme Close
- 222674 Application for the proposed garage conversion to create habitable space at 2, Foxes Walk
- 223025 Householder application for the proposed single storey side extension, first floor rear extension following demolition of existing garage and store, and removal of existing rear dormer at 35, Park View Drive South
- 223133 Householder application for the proposed garage conversion and changes to the flank and rear elevation fenestration at 112, The Hawthorns
- 222907 Application for advertisement consent for 1 no. externally illuminated fascia sign, 8 no. non-illuminated window vinyls, 1 no. non-illuminated post-mounted sign, 1 no. non-illuminated panel ATM sign, 1no. non-illuminated poster frame and 4 no. non-illuminated lockable poster cases at 36, Park View Drive South

Council Comments on the following applications

- 222012 Application for the proposed conversion of loft to create habitable accommodation, including 1no. front dormer and 2 automated teller machine (Retrospective) at 36 no. rear dormers at 11, Old Bath Road – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:
- 1. It is unfortunate that the applicant failed to provide accurate plans and an accurate description of what they are proposing in this application. This has hindered the democratic process in that at least one of the neighbours did not feel in a position to comment directly on the application, and others may have taken the application at face value.*
 - 2. This site has been the issue of multiple applications in the past three years, most of which have been refused for either being out of keeping, impacting on neighbours, or both. This application is similar in style to the dwelling at No.15, which is a step in the right direction, but fails to recognise that because nos. 9 and 11 are so close together, having a flat two storey wall will have a negative impact on the neighbouring dwelling due to the mass so close to their boundary.*

3. *Because the two homes are so close together, it would also detract from the street scene, which currently has an open aspect – this would be lost.*

For these reasons, Charvil Parish Council believe that this application should be refused.

212720 Outline application (all matters reserved except access to the site) for the development of up to 200 dwellings and associated infrastructure, open space, biodiversity enhancements, landscaping, and green infrastructure, following demolition of existing agricultural buildings (means of access into the site from New Bath Road to be considered) at Bridge Farm, Twyford

It was agreed that the Parish Council still stands by its original comments but was also asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to add the following comments in relation to the additional evidence provided recently. The Council's original comments are still valid despite the extra information on travel - we still believe that this development will adversely affect the local road network by the addition of a very complex series of road changes on the A4, although the reduction in the speed limit between Charvil and Twyford is broadly welcomed. That said, this should be done as a matter of course, not just because of development. The flood risks to the South and West of the site are also not adequately addressed to ease the fears of Charvil residents

222391 Application for the proposed garage conversion, removal of hip roof to form gable roof and loft conversion with rear dormer (Retrospective) at 2 Park Lane – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council have no concerns about the extensions in themselves but are concerned that other properties in the area have all had the condition that the external materials match the existing building, and this was mentioned in the decision that this was not permitted development. The Parish Council believes that for the sake of consistency and the wider external appearance of the area, the applicant should be asked to ensure that the materials used match the existing.

222616 Application for the proposed single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, conversion of loft to create habitable accommodation, to include 2no. front dormers, 1no. rear dormer plus changes to fenestration at 11, Old Bath Road - the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to comment on this application as follows:

1. *This site has been the issue of multiple applications in the past three years, most of which have been refused for either being out of keeping, impacting on neighbours, or both. This application is similar in style to the dwelling at No.15, which is a step in the right direction, but fails to recognise that because nos. 9 and 11 are so close together, having a flat two storey wall will have a negative impact on the neighbouring dwelling due to the mass so close to their boundary.*
2. *Because the two homes are so close together, it would also detract from the street scene, which currently has an open aspect – this would be lost.*
3. *The single storey side extension is also a concern, because although the plan suggests this will remain a garage, the plan description makes no mention of this, and given it is already half built, it appears this is intended to be habitable accommodation. This is misleading.*

For these reasons, Charvil Parish Council believe that this application should be refused.

222834 Application for the proposed conversion of a single dwelling house dividing the existing dwelling and garden to allow for two individual residential dwellings. To include rear paddock area one 3no. bedroom dwelling and one 2no.bedroom dwelling and the conversion of existing garage to habitable space at 6, Old Bath Road – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council does not object to the division of the house if this is acceptable to the planning authorities, but it does have serious concerns around the change of use of a large part of the garden to paddock. The area concerned is in the middle of private residences and has no means of access for livestock. It is an inappropriate location for a paddock, and changes of use from garden to other uses have been refused at other properties on the Old Bath Road. Allowing this would create a dangerous precedent for further changes of use to the back gardens on the Old Bath Road.

222704 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear flat roof extension and a single storey side/rear flat roof extension, following the demolition of the existing garage at 11, Old Bath Road - the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

The Parish Council would like to make the observation that the application form is misleading because, although there is existing planning permission for extensions, what has been built does not have permission, therefore this application is at least part retrospective. Accurate applications are necessary as part of a fair planning process.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 221869 *Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of front porch at 3 Newbury Close*
- 221821 *Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension and changes to fenestration following demolition of the existing bay window at 46 East Park Farm Drive*
- 221838 Application for the proposed part conversion of garage to create habitable accommodation to include changing roof from flat to pitched plus 2no. rooflights. Internal amendments to Ground & First Floor at 7, Cleveland
- 222271 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent 35826 (F) for the erection of 7no. houses and 1no. bungalow) to allow change of external materials to plots 6,7 and 8 on land to the rear of 6, Old Bath Road
- 222704 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear flat roof extension and a single storey side/rear flat roof extension, following demolition of existing garage at 11, Old Bath Road
- 222391 Application for the proposed garage conversion, removal of hip roof to form gable roof and loft conversion with rear dormer (Retrospective) at 2 Park Lane
- 222616 Application for the proposed single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, conversion of loft to create habitable accommodation, to include 2no. front dormers, 1no. rear dormer plus changes to fenestration at 11, Old Bath Road
- 222674 Application for the proposed garage conversion to create habitable space at 2, Foxes Walk
- 222574 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of the existing conservatory at 2, Balme Close

The following Application was withdrawn

- 222012 Application for the proposed conversion of loft to create habitable accommodation, including 1no. Front dormer. 2no. Rear dormers at 11, Old Bath Road

The Following Applications were refused

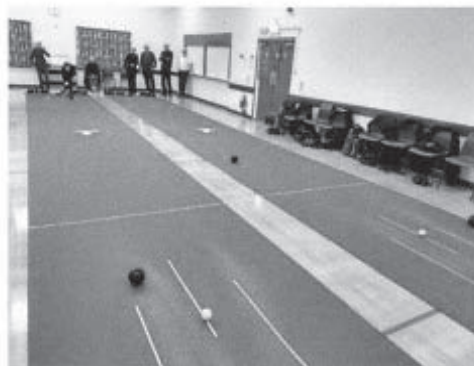
- 222989 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent 220673 to allow the addition of 1 no. rooflight and 1 no. Juliet balcony, plus changes to external materials and second floor fenestration at Iffleigh, Park Lane

FULL DETAILS OF ALL APPLICATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON: www.wokingham.gov.uk

Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2023		
9 January 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting - Cancelled	
16 January 2023	Finance Committee	
23 January 2023	Full Council Meeting	
6 February 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting - Cancelled	
20 February 2023	Amenities Committee Meeting - Cancelled	
27 February 2023	Full Council Meeting	
6 March 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting – To be confirmed (TBC)	
13 March 2023	Amenities Committee Meeting - TBC	
20 March 2023	Full Council Meeting	
27 March 2023	Staffing Committee	
3 April 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting (TBC)	
17 April 2023	Amenities Committee Meeting (TBC)	
24 April 2023	Full Council Meeting	
<p>MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE. RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS PLEASE NOTE: WHILE THE COUNCIL WISHES TO FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE, PLANNING AND AMENITIES MEETINGS WILL BE PART OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE UNTIL MORE COUNCILLORS ARE CO-OPTED – PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION</p>		
Charvil Parish Councillors		
Jane Hartley	Chair of Council	07879 427350 chair@charvil.com
Pat Sutcliffe	Vice Chair of Council/ Chair of Amenities/Chair of Staffing	07788 100935 patsutcliffe@charvil.com
Mike Heath	Chair of Planning	07902 306381 mikeheath@charvil.com
Matt Walker	Chair of Finance	07974 160846 mattwalker@charvil.com
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	07957 345652 narinderryatt@charvil.com
Rob Jones	Councillor	07752 487604 Robjones@charvil.com
Isabelle Bray	Councillor	07535 696947 Isabellebray@charvil.com
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Parish Council Officers		
Miranda Parker	Parish Clerk	901 7719 clerk@charvil.com
Amanda Burton	Amenities Manager and Newsletter Editor	07850 234363 bookings@charvil.com

CHARVIL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

**Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane, Charvil,
RG10 9TR**



Do you want to get some gentle exercise?

Do you want to meet new people and have some fun?

Why not give short mat bowls a try?

**We are a friendly mixed club looking for new
members.**

**We meet at Charvil Village Hall on Tuesdays between
2 & 4pm and Wednesdays between 7 & 9pm.**

**Clean flat soled shoes are required. We can provide
bowling woods.**

For more information, please ring 0118 9694022 .

REGULAR CLUBS TIMETABLE

Are you looking for a new hobby for yourself or perhaps a club for a member of the family? Have a look through the list of available village clubs that use the Village Hall and Pavilion. For more information on the activities, please contact bookings@charvil.com

WHEN	TIME	GROUP	WHERE
Monday	09:45 – 12:45	Hawthorn Quilters	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
	10:00 – 11:00	Zumba	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	11:30 – 12:30	Bryn Ballet Swans (Seniors)	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	15:45 – 19:35	Bryn Ballet Academy	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	17:30 – 19:00	Charvil Beaver Group (Canberra)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	19:00 – 20:30	1st Charvil Guides	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	20:00 – 21:30	Project Singers	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
Tuesday	09:30 – 13:00	Flower Painting Class	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	10:30 – 12:30	Glass Ensemble (Tapestry Choir)	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	14:00 – 16:00	Short Mat Bowls	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	14:00 – 16:00 (Every other Tues)	Senior Residents Club	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
	17:30 – 19:00	Slimming World	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	17:45 – 18:45	Charvil Beaver Group (Lands End)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	19:00 – 20:15	Charvil Cubs Group (Copperbridge)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	20:00 – 21:00	Pilates	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
Wednesday	09:00 – 10:00	Core Mini Kickers (Pre-School Football)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	09.45 - 11.30	Caterpillar Club (Toddler Club)	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	10:00 – 13:00 (Every other Wed)	Berkshire Spinners, Dyers & Weavers	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
	13:30 – 15:30	Private Hire	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	18:30 – 20:30	Charvil Scouts	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	19:00 – 21:00	Short Mat Bowls	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	19:30 – 21:30	Charvil Art Group	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room

WHEN	TIME	GROUP	WHERE
Thursday	09:30 – 12:30	Bloom Baby Classes (Baby Sensory)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	10:15 – 13:15 (2 nd & 4 th Thur)	Berkshire Spinners, Weavers & Dyers	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
	13:30 – 15:30 (1 st Thur)	Singing for the Brain	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	13:00 – 17:00 (2 nd Thur)	Sonning Flower Club	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	13:30 – 15:30 (4 th Thur)	Love to Move Dementia UK	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	14:00 – 17:00	Charvil Stitchers	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
	17:30 – 19:00	1st Charvil Brownies	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	19:00 – 20:00	Charvil Cubs (Heron on the Ford)	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	19:30 – 22:00 (1 st Thurs)	Flower Club	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	19:30 – 22:30 (2 nd Thur)	Reading Cigarette & Post Card Club	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	19:00 – 23:00 (3 rd Thur)	Hexagon Quilters	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	19:45 – 22:15 (4 th Thur)	Charvil Wine Circle	Charvil Village Hall Committee Room
Friday	09:15 – 10:15	Pilates	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	09:15 – 10:15	Toddler Football	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	13:30 – 15:30	Private Hire	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	16:45 – 18:00	1st Charvil Rainbows	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	17:30 – 20:00	Windsor Higashi Karate Club	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
Saturday	10:00 – 17:00 (3 rd Sat)	Berkshire Guild Spinners, Weavers & Dyers	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
Sunday	10:00 – 12:00	GKR Karate Reading	EPF Pavilion Main Hall
	14:30 – 18:00 (1 st Sun)	Sax Bandits	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall
	18:00 – 19:45	Project Singers	Charvil Village Hall Main Hall

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Dear Residents,

This year certainly has flown by, and I honestly can't believe it is almost Christmas and we will soon say goodbye to 2022. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve Charvil as a Borough councillor for over a year now. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as a councillor for our wonderful village and I take pleasure in meeting more and more of you as time goes on!

I have included a breakdown below of some recent updates and upcoming events over the Christmas season.

Wildlife Walk in Charvil Country Park

In November, we arranged a guided nature walk around Charvil Country Park.

We were pleased that fifteen borough residents turned up – despite the miserable weather! Our group was led by Simon Bartlam, countryside officer for Wokingham Borough Council, who explained how the park is managed for wildlife, the different habitats of the birds and animals that live there, and where tunnels have been put in place to moderate the water level of the lakes.



Due to the success and popularity of this walk, we are looking to arrange another guided walk in the Springtime so watch this space!

Festive events and activities

Holidays, Activities and Food programme (HAF)

The council's Holidays, Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for the Christmas holidays, with football clubs, activity clubs, laser quest, bowling and pantomimes all on offer for under 16s this December. The HAF programme is funded by the Department of Education and provides free activities and a healthy meal for those from reception to Year 11 who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals or referred by a professional. Please visit the [Wokingham.gov.uk](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk) website and search for the 'Holidays, Activities and Food programme' for further information.

The Link visiting scheme

For the 11th year running, the council are running their Christmas Day event, enabling joy and companionship to those who would otherwise be spending Christmas on their own. This will include having a friend to talk to, gifts and a delicious, traditional Christmas dinner at a local venue. If you would like to attend the event or refer someone you know, please visit the website <https://www.linkvisiting.org/christmas>.

You can also buy a gift for an older person or donate to the Link visiting scheme by accessing the link above.

Litter picks

Our eco-group 'Charvil matters' continues to operate, with litter picks in Charvil taking place on a monthly basis. If you would like to join, please do get in touch using the e-mail address charvilatters@gmail.com. Also, if you know of an area that needs attention, please do contact us.

I wish you all a lovely, happy and relaxing Christmas break and the very best wishes for 2023. If you would like to get in touch with me regarding any local issues, my e-mail address is sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk.

Sam Akhtar, Borough Councillor

THE WINDOW CLEANER

- All types of windows
- Windows inside & out
- Doors, frames & sills
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- Attention to detail
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Ballet Classes - RAD Syllabus

Charvil & Henley



tel: 07495 949135

www.brynballetacademy.co.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM UPDATE

Don't make it easy for burglars this winter and holiday season

As the winter nights close in, leave a light on... and burglars in the dark! Burglars are often opportunistic thieves and you can take steps to avoid becoming one of their victims this winter.

- Make your home look occupied by using timer switches on lights and radios, these can also help conserve energy and save money.
- Illuminate your front door with energy saving dusk to dawn lightbulbs that come on automatically.
- Consider purchasing and installing a video doorbell, house alarm or CCTV system.
- Close and double lock all doors and windows when going out - those 10 or 15 minutes on the school run or popping out to the shops are all a burglar needs to break into your home.
- Always double lock doors and windows at night and when you go to bed.
- Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and away from doors, windows and letterboxes.
- When not in use, store electronic car key fobs in a signal blocking 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, but anyone tampering with it can be seen.
- When working from home, ensure laptops and electronic equipment are not on view.
- Don't give thieves the tools to burgle your house, ensure your sheds and garages are locked and secure.

We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season, but please:

- Don't leave any presents on view or advertise them on social media.
- Don't leave packaging next to your bin.
- Don't advertise you are away from home on social media. Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property.
- Ensure you security mark and register your new presents and gifts online at www.immobilise.com

You can find further crime prevention advice at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood. Report online or call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

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

Receive free crime and information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk or consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. For more information about schemes in your local area, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk

Email: You can contact your local neighbourhood team via WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk – please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Follow us on social media for regular crime updates and find out what your local policing teams are up to:

Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

Leave a light on...

and burglars in the dark



Be bright and Invest in a
light timer switch this winter

- 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
- For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

 **THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

CC5399

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Village Hall, The Hawthorns, Charvil



Since its opening in May 1988, the Village Hall has continued to serve the community and residents of Charvil and the surrounding areas as a superb venue for both social and recreational events, ranging from the many clubs who use the hall on a regular basis

through to administrative functions such as the Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Village Hall is used regularly by over thirty clubs and groups. A current timetable of these clubs is shown in the centrefold of this magazine. Additionally, the building is used for private parties, weddings and other occasional social events.

If you are looking for a venue for a private social event, the light and spacious main hall provides an ideal location. For those smaller craft groups or meetings, the committee room is the perfect space for up to 15 people. Please contact bookings@charvil.com to enquire about availability or reservations.

Facilities

The hall is continually maintained and cleaned. It provides excellent facilities for groups ranging up to 200 in number (150 if closely seated). The building comprises:

Main hall (17m long by 9m wide). It is possible to accommodate a bouncy castle up to 14ft high. (22 large tables 182.5cm long by 76.5cm wide and 76cm high, plus 150 chairs)

Smaller room (6.3m long by 3.7m wide). Known as the committee room, suitable for smaller groups or meetings. (10 small tables 91cm long by 76cm wide and 70cm high, plus 15 chairs)

Fully fitted kitchen with cooker, fridge, microwave, hot water urn, kettles plus crockery and cutlery.

Additionally, there are WCs for both male and female, together with a dedicated disabled WC and baby changing.

Well-lit dedicated car park to the front of the building comprising 47 spaces plus 2 spaces for disabled.

Pavilion, East Park Farm, Charvil

Located on the playing fields at East Park Farm, adjacent to the Charvil Country Park. The Pavilion building is versatile and home to both sporting and community groups, as well as social gatherings especially for those requiring the use of the large sports fields surrounding the building.



The regular clubs who use the building can be found on the current timetable, but it is also available to hire for private functions or social events.

Facilities

The main hall is continually maintained and cleaned. The maximum capacity for the main hall is 100 people. The building comprises:

Main hall (12.4m long by 8.1m wide). (21 large tables 182.5cm long by 76.5cm wide and 76cm high) and 68 chairs.

Compact kitchen with fridge, microwave, kettle, plus crockery and cutlery.

Direct access to the building by car for the event organiser and disabled users (4 spaces directly outside)

Large car park alongside the tennis courts 40 plus spaces available.

Four team changing rooms with showers and one referee changing room with showers.

Additionally, there are WCs for both male and female, together with a dedicated disabled WC and baby changing.

Sports Facilities, East Park Farm

Alongside the Pavilion building there are two full size football pitches which are well used at the weekend and an artificial cricket strip, all of which available to hire.

The purchase of an annual membership from the Charvil Parish Council gives you access to the tennis courts all year round.

Bookings

If you would like to book any of the sports facilities or either of the buildings for an event, whether it is a one off social gathering or a regular club, please contact the Assistant Parish Clerk on 07850 234363 or by email bookings@charvil.com

FOODBANK DONATION POINT

This autumn, there has been a great deal of work done by local charities and councils to help people who are struggling financially with the cost-of-living crisis.

As a smaller parish, the Council does not have the capacity to run warm spaces or such like, but we have become aware that our closest foodbank in Woodley relies wholly on donations from individuals and collections by schools, Churches, and such like – with no direct support from the supermarkets who concentrate on the larger towns.

Consequently, we now offer a drop-off point for donations to the Woodley foodbank and are pleased to announce that the first delivery has recently been taken there, providing much needed food for those struggling to make ends meet.



We are very grateful to the generous donations received so far, and hopefully we will be able to take many more deliveries while the cost-of-living crisis continues.

Wanted items include:

Tinned Soup	Baked Beans	Tinned potatoes	Tinned tomatoes
Tinned fruit	Dry noodles	Custard	Dry pasta
Fruit Squash	Dried Spaghetti	Tinned vegetables	Toilet Rolls
Plastic Bags	Long life Milk	Rice pudding	Small bottles of cooking oil
Rice	Biscuits	Tinned meat	Tinned tuna
Other Tinned fish	Pasta sauce	Tea bags	Tinned spaghetti
Toiletries/ sanitary pads	Cereal	Sugar	Beans/ chickpeas
Coffee			

Donation point is Charvil Village Hall, The Hawthorns, RG10 9TT – the hall is open most days: if the car park is unlocked, then it is usually open, and the blue collection box is in the foyer.

Thank you for your support

COMMUNITY ORCHARD PART 2

Last year, six kind sponsors came forward to pay for six apple trees to be planted in the park at The Hawthorns, and thanks to a group of volunteers – some sponsors and others who are keen for the project to work – the trees have been nurtured and are flourishing.

This year we took the advice of our tree supplier (an expert in community orchards), and he suggested we plant a mixture of plums and pears – so after an appeal for sponsors, to which we had a fantastic response – a further six we due to be planted at the end of November.

The trees must be dormant before being lifted from the ground, and as the autumn was so mild, we had to postpone the planting date until the trees were ready. We re-arranged the date for 10th December, but even then, it was touch and go, with the trees arriving late the day before!

Like last year, the planting took place in the coldest weather of the year, but the intrepid group of sponsors and volunteers worked hard to have them all planted successfully, and there was a real sense of achievement from the group.

We already have potential sponsors for a further six trees next year, but if we could find some more, then we might go for twelve - so if you are interested, please contact the clerk at clerk@charvil.com

Finally, if you visit the orchard, you will notice that there has been a lot of cutting back of brambles and scrub, and the building of a dead hedge. This is the work of Conserve Reading on Wednesdays, who have been working on a re-wilding project, both to improve biodiversity, and to remove invasive garden escapees. They are a group in high demand, and so the hope is to form our very own Charvil Conservation group, both to continue the work in this park, but also to work in other parts of the village as things develop. If this is something you are interested in, please get in contact with the clerk. This would be a group run by volunteers with background support of the Parish Council, not a Council run initiative.



THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Queen's Green Canopy is a nationwide tree planting initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee year and takes place between November 2021 and March 2023. In the first planting season of 2021/22, this living legacy saw over 1 million trees being planted across the UK and there are a lot more to come in 22/23!

All the trees are supplied by the Woodland Trust and are native to the UK, which means that they arrived to the UK over 10,000 years ago, as these are of greatest benefit to UK wildlife.

In Charvil, the Parish Council decided to run such one programme, to include volunteer residents from around the village, that has led to an amazing 220 trees being added to our green spaces. Together, we have created a new avenue of 25 small leaf lime trees, a scrubland habitat for wildlife, repaired a hedgerow and planted groups of rowans, crab apples and silver birches all of which will give a spectacular display and provide food and shelter for our native insects and birds in years to come. The four weekends in November of this year culminated with Theresa May helping us plant the 200th tree, a commemorative oak, in memory of the Queen at the Village Hall.

Volunteers across the parish included young families and it was particularly heart-warming to see the children enjoying digging holes and the excitement of planting. Maybe, as the trees grow to become the village's green future, so too they will grow to become the next generation of green guardians with positive appreciations of the environment.

This programme and others under the Queen's Green Canopy umbrella, such as the hedge repairing by the Girl Guiding group, have helped make Charvil a greener place to live in with the added benefit of community involvement in both the planting, care and watering.



CATERPILLAR CLUB

Caterpillar Club continues to thrive, with a committed team running the group and friendships and connections being made through the group. We welcome parents and carers and their children 0-5 years of age to Caterpillar Club on Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.45-11.30am at Charvil Village Hall. Each session includes story, snack and singing time and costs £2 for a child and £1 for additional children. If you have pre-school age children and are free on Wednesday mornings do just turn up and join us. The spring term will start on 11th January 2023. Any updates or for further information find us on www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub.

1st CHARVIL SCOUT GROUP

We have had a great term with leaders having done an amazing job in keeping all of the various groups carrying out some great activities,

This term has been focusing on and about local community awareness, with groups having visited local food banks to help them prepare boxes for deliveries, to carrying out local litter picking in the area. Some of our cubs have even helped with the Tree planting that has been done by the local council. We have also been involved in parades of Remembrance at St Andrews, and various camps and exciting activities.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. With preparations in place for new activities and challenges to take place in the coming year for all the different groups.

We are always happy to add new children to the groups or waiting lists, so please feel free to contact us at 1st Charvil Scout Group charvilscout@gmail.com.

We are however always recruiting for new leaders, especially at the moment we are desperately in need of a scout leader and a cub leader, so we would of course be very grateful if anyone would have the time to help and join our group to help with the scouts. We are a large group with lots of support for new helpers and leaders and all training is free to adults that are able to spare some time.

1st Charvil scout group would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHARVIL GIRL GUIDING

Wildlife in Charvil has been given a Royal boost thanks to Charvil Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

The girls, with a little help from their parents and leaders, planted 90 saplings gifted by the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

They were planted along Park Lane to improve the hedge from the car park to the stream. It's hoped the hedges will make a natural screen or connect existing woodland and help wildlife stay on the move.

Hawthorn, Hazel and Dog Rose were among the varieties planted by the enthusiastic volunteers who refused to let a little drizzle put them off their digging.



Brownies Leader Tawny Owl aka Claire Howells said "They wanted to do something to celebrate the Queen and since her death it's a lot more poignant and we applied to the Woodland Trust and they granted us these trees."

Charvil Brownie Emily Voss said "It's good for the environment because if we chop all the tree down the animals won't have homes." Brownie Emelia Silvey agreed, adding "if we get rid of all the trees we won't have healthy lungs." Cecily Davey said she was happy to be helping the environment.

The planting took place on Sunday 27th November and the location was requested by Charvil Parish Council.

Written by Angie Walker on behalf of Charvil Girlguiding Units

Senior Journalist, BBC South Today

CHARVIL WINE CIRCLE

Charvil Wine Circle first met over 25 years ago when the hall was originally built and is still going strong. We meet in the Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane on the 4th Thursday evening of most months, to taste different wines and learn a little about them. We are looking for new members to join our very friendly and sociable group, so if you are interested, please contact me, Pam on 07884 485213 or email me on pam.livesey@gmail.com.

THE PROJECT SINGERS

This term the choir have been working on some great Christmas songs for a concert at Queen Anne's School, Caversham on December 17th. Songs have included Let it snow, Rockin' the baby, Pavane for a silent night and Home for Christmas. During our rehearsals we spend time warming up and working on vocal technique.



2023 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the singers! We have two projects lined up starting with 'And wherever you go' which will run during the spring term and culminate in a concert at St Mary's Church, Twyford on March 25th. Songs will all be about travel and include Homeward bound, Already home, Skye boat song and Wheels of a dream. The second project will run from May to December and will include a concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on November 18th as well as some carol singing. This project will be 'Thank you for the music' - great pop songs including Bridge over troubled water, You raise me up, Fields of gold and My heart will go on.

We have spaces for new members to join us for 2023 so if you would like more details please get in touch. We have a section for girls between the ages of 9 and 18 who meet for rehearsals on Sundays – 6.15 to 7.45pm. We also have a section for ladies who meet on Mondays between 8.00 and 9.30pm.

Suzanne Newman. 0118 9340589. suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

QUIZ TIME—ALL ABOUT READING

1. Which rugby team is based at Reading FC's home ground?
2. What are Reading's 3 B's?
3. Where would you find the Maiwand Lion?
4. What is the more common name for Union Street in Reading?
5. Which famous author attended the Reading Ladies Boarding School in the 1780's?
6. Which King is buried in the grounds of Reading Abbey?
7. Which former racing driver lived in Tilehurst for a couple of years and has a children's play area named after him?
8. Who was the subject of a statue unveiled in Reading in 1891 - the first statue in the UK to include an umbrella?
9. Three bridges cross the Thames at Reading - Reading Bridge, Sonning Bridge and which other?
10. Which former prisoner wrote 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol'?

Singing for the Brain Charvil 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm untill 3.30pm

Singing for the Brain is a social activity for people with dementia and their carers enabling them to express themselves and sing with others in a similar situation.

Sessions running on the following dates at
Charvil Village Hall,
Park Lane,
Charvil,
RG10 9TR

5th January
2nd February
2nd March
6th April

To book your place please contact Annabell

Here for everyone
affected by dementia
alzheimers.org.uk

Get in touch today

annabell.kirby@alzheimers.org.uk

01189596482



SINGING FOR THE BRAIN COMES TO CHARVIL

A singing group for people with dementia and their carers has reopened its doors at Charvil Village Hall.

Alzheimer's Society's Singing for the Brain brings people affected by dementia together to meet in a fun, friendly and supportive environment. Uniting people affected by dementia through song, it helps to reduce social isolation, improve quality of life, wellbeing and mood.

Annabell Kirby, Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Worker in Berkshire, said: "Music memory is often retained when other memories are lost. Singing for the Brain can help people, even in advanced stages of dementia, to tap into long-term memories linked to music and song – for some, this can mean they can communicate through singing when no longer able to do so through speech. Singing together can help encourage positive feelings for people affected by dementia, creating powerful connections."

The Charvil Singing for the Brain group meets in person on the first Thursday of every month 2pm – 3.30pm. A virtual group meets every Monday by Zoom at 11am and 3pm.



There are 6,970 people estimated to be living with dementia in Berkshire. To find out more about support available, including Singing for the Brain, please contact Alzheimer's Society on 0118 959 64 82 or email: Berkshire@alzheimers.org.uk

CHARVIL ART GROUP

Charvil Art Group had a fun day in the Village Hall at the end of November exhibiting our work to the public and competing amongst ourselves in a range of categories. Our exhibition is a chance to advertise the club which always welcomes new members both experienced and beginner artists. We meet on Wednesday evenings and you can find out about the club and find our program for next term at www.charvilartgroup.co.uk

If you missed our exhibition this year look out for it next Autumn!



SONNING FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

The Sonning Floral Arrangement Society have enjoyed a very successful year after two previous years 2020 and 2021 being rather difficult due to Covid. The Society have enjoyed very good, well attended demonstrations. Plus outings, a well attended Summer Garden Party and taking part in a festival to celebrate an anniversary of the Falklands War. The festival was held in Pangbourne where £7,000 was raised. The proceeds (money) is to be split between two worthwhile charities: MNDA Association in Reading and West Berkshire, and the Falklands Memorial Chapel Trust.

Not only have the society enjoyed the regular monthly meetings, SFAS are looking forward to another good year (2023) where there are equally good demonstrations.

The Society always welcome new members and visitors for a very reasonable fee. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Charvil Village Hall. The first of next year being January 12th, doors open at 1:15pm for a prompt start at 2pm. Come and join us, you will be made very welcome.



ZUMBA IS BACK 😊

MONDAYS FROM 9TH JANUARY

CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL 10.00-11.00

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY 19.30-20.30

WEDNESDAYS FROM 11TH JANUARY

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY 19.30-20.30

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TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Twyford and Ruscombe Horticultural Association have been busy planning their activities for 2023. The AGM is on Thursday 26th January at St Mary's Hall, Twyford, RG10 9NT. We propose making changes to the Constitution and will be electing new Officers so please come along and make your views known.

Stock has been ordered for when our Store, in Loddon Bridge Road Twyford, RG10 9JA, re-opens for trading on Sunday, 6th February. Opening hours are 9.30 am to 11.00 am every Sunday. Members can purchase horticultural goods at competitive prices, so come along and meet the team. You can apply for Membership at the Store, or email Jenny Wager at trhamembership@gmail.com.

On the 19th March we are welcoming children to the Store to plant potatoes in pots for them to nurture at home. Prizes will be awarded for the best crop later in the year.

We will be having three Shows in 2023 and have decided to open them to All Comers. You will not need to be a member to enter your produce, or crafts next year. The Spring Show is on 25th March. As we cannot print the Show Schedule before January the Classes will be advertised in advance in our Newsletter, and on our website, www.trha.org.uk so you will be able to start planning your entries.

More social events are planned for 2023. Details will advertised, in advance, in the TRHA Newsletter, which is sent to all members, and on the website.

We wish you all happy and healthy 2023. Remember gardening is an excellent way to keep fit so join the green gym.



GET HELP IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH COST OF LIVING

Support is available if you're struggling with the cost of living.

Many who are coming forward for help are doing so for the first time – the pressure this crisis is creating is unprecedented.

Here's some of the help you can get:

- Pension credits
- Winter Fuel Payments
- Warm spaces open this winter
- Discounts on household bills
- Finding a job
- Healthy food vouchers
- Low income NHS help
- What to do if you can't afford food
- Mental health support
- What to do if you're in debt

We'll keep our webpages updated with the latest support on offer, like when warm spaces will be open locally. Go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Energy Saving Trust's top energy saving tips

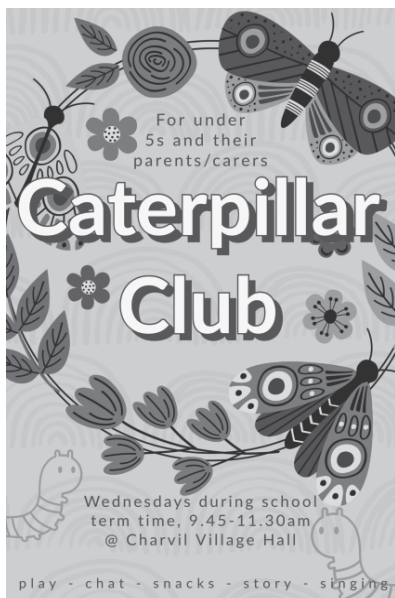
1. Turn appliances off at the plug socket (saves around £65 per year)
2. Draught proof windows and doors (can save around £125 per year)
3. Turn off lights you're not using (saves around £25 per year)
4. Use a 30-degree cycle on your washing machine and reduce runs by one per week (£34 per year)
5. Avoid using the tumble dryer (saves £70 per year)
6. Keep your shower to four minutes (saves £95 per year) or swap the bath for a shower (saves £20 per year)
7. Avoid overfilling the kettle (saves £13 per year)
8. Fill the dishwasher each time (saves £17 per year)
9. Insulate your hot water cylinder (saves £70 per year)

Need to talk to someone on the phone to get help?

Call the One Front Door to speak to advisors from Citizens Advice if you're struggling. Call 0808 278 7958 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Not struggling but want to help others? Wokingham Volunteer Centre can help you find a role volunteering anywhere across Wokingham borough.

Visit wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk or call 0118 977 0749.



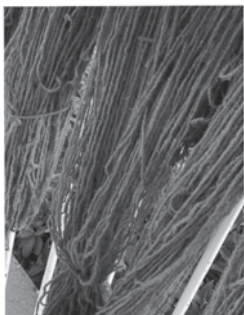
QUIZ ANSWERS -

1. London Irish
2. Beer, biscuits and bulbs
3. Forbury Gardens
4. Smelly Alley
5. Jane Austen
6. Henry 1
7. Ayrton Senna
8. George Palmer
9. Caversham Bridge
10. Oscar Wilde



BERKSHIRE GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS AND DYERS

We are an enthusiastic, friendly group of approximately 50 members, ranging from beginners through to experienced who meet at Charvil Village Hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month, for talks, demonstrations and workshops given by professional craft workers and experienced Guild members.



This year we have had fascinating talks ranging, most recently, from Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing in the Classical World", "Kite Making" using natural materials to "Colour and Structure in Weaving."

In addition we have had various workshops covering a wide range of topics such as Lavender Wand making, natural dyeing and wet felting as well as our weekly group meetings, details of which are below.




This gives members an opportunity to learn a wide variety of new techniques and skills, share ideas and display completed work either informally or by entering our competitions and exhibitions.

The spinning and weaving groups also meet at Charvil Village Hall, on alternate Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 10am to 1pm, and are an excellent way to learn how to spin or weave in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested in finding out more about these traditional crafts we would be delighted to welcome you to one of our meetings, the first two are free, or alternatively you can contact us by email at berks.guild@gmail.com or have a look on our website, www.bswd.org.uk , for more information.



For all the latest news, events and much more don't forget to visit our website www.charvil.com or follow us on Facebook 

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3RD JANUARY 2023

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