

# Charvil Village News

Spring/Summer 2023



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Photograph: Andy Cowan

**Inside this issue:**

17th MAY  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING!



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## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

After a relatively mild and uneventful winter (at least, here in Charvil), inevitably Spring has been ushered in. There are signs of new beginnings all around us – nature welcoming the change in seasons in the form of beautiful Spring flowers such as daffodils and crocuses in the hedgerows and front gardens; animals emerging from hibernation in our fields, parks and walkways and the swans at Charvil lakes building nests ready for breeding. After the short winter days, I do hope you can find ways to make the most of our extra hours of daylight. A big thank you to Andy Cowan, a local resident who allowed us to use his glorious photograph of a robin singing it's heart out on the front cover of our magazine.

Inside this Spring edition you will find several updates on recent happenings in village life, such as the latest village litter pick, additional tree-planting and the mobile post office. There are a couple of dates for calendars, the Annual Parish Meeting on May 17th where you can meet your Councillors and hear the latest news and September 3rd for the summer village fete where there will be fun for all the family.

As always, please do contact me if you have any suggestions or contributions for future editions of this magazine. Perhaps you represent a new or existing group, club or business in the community and wish to spread the word about your activity.

Amanda Burton, Editor

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Spring Issue



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## **CHAIR'S FOREWORD**

Hopefully we can be looking forward to some warmer weather and longer days now the clocks have changed, and have better weather to enjoy the countryside and waterways around Charvil.

We have been busy in the Council and still in need of more members so do contact me ([chair@charvil.com](mailto:chair@charvil.com)) or Miranda Parker, the Parish Clerk, ([clerk@charvil.com](mailto:clerk@charvil.com)) if you would like to find out more about what we do. We are also keen to involve residents - not necessarily as councillors - in our plans and projects, if there are any of our initiatives you are interested in helping with, please let us know. There is also an Open Forum item on all our Council meetings for residents to have their say – why not come and see what we are doing?

## **Meet Your Councillors**

We have held two 'meet your councillors' sessions, in January at the Wee Waif and in March at the Heron on the Ford. These are opportunities to meet us informally and let us know how you feel about local issues. So far we have discussed a variety of issues with residents including community energy initiatives, pavilion redevelopment and community events.

We will let you know the date of the next one as soon as possible, please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page or Instagram feed to find out where and when.

## **The Council's Media Presence**

We are very keen to engage more closely with residents by making better use of social media to keep in touch and listen to your concerns. So we were very pleased to welcome the newly appointed Media Manager, Neil Durrant, who is working a few hours a month to improve the media presence of the Council. He has already made a great start with a new Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CharvilParishCouncil>) and daily posts on Instagram. So please take a look and follow us to keep in touch with the council and local events. Neil can be emailed on [media@charvil.com](mailto:media@charvil.com), please let him know if you have any community events you wish to promote. We would also be pleased to take constructive feedback!

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Plan aims to manage development in our area to reflect the wishes of the community and take greater account of what makes Charvil special to us. The Plan, when adopted, will be used to help determine all planning applications in Charvil Parish.

So far the Neighbourhood Planning group, led by Cllr Rob Jones, has put together the first outline draft of the Plan, covering the five themes identified by residents from the survey of: Housing, Transport, Environment, Flooding and Community. We are now looking for an experienced consultancy to help us prepare a more polished draft of the plans and supporting policies for discussion with residents.

## **Pavilion Redevelopment**

The Pavilion, as many of you will know, is in dire need of repair. We would like to completely rebuild it to provide a community hub as well as replacing the sports and other facilities. Sadly, at the moment with escalating construction costs and interest payments on loans, the Council don't see we can move forward with these plans yet. In the meantime, we have commissioned a detailed survey of the existing building to find out what can be done to bring the facilities up to a reasonable, and safe, standard for existing users and the new pre-school which is planned for September.

## **Planning**

We are keen to keep the semi-rural character of Charvil but the Parish Council can only make comments and try to influence Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) who are responsible for granting planning approval. I think we all realise that we need more homes but you have told us that any developments need to be in keeping with their setting and have minimum impact. When making our comments we do point out if a proposed development adjoins green space or ancient woodland as this might impact on wildlife and the natural environment. We would also like to see more provision for safe cycling and walking when new housing is proposed rather than trying to fit these in afterwards.

## **Control of Dogs on East Park Farm**

It is always difficult to make sure different users of our green spaces can fully enjoy our facilities and this seems to be a particular problem on East Park Farm Sports Field. Concerns have been raised by residents about dogs – or rather owners lack of control of their dogs – which causes anxiety. It is disappointing that a few owners allow their dogs to intimidate younger or more elderly and frail residents, so I would ask that any dog owners please try to be aware of other users. The Council has written to Wokingham Borough Council asking about whether they have plans to restrict the numbers of dogs one person can walk at one time as the Council would like the number restricted to a manageable number.

I would like to thank all those dog owners who clear up after their dogs and put their dog poo bags in the bins, and a reminder to others to be considerate.

## **Park Lane Roundabout**

Some years ago the Charvil Village Society renovated and planted the roundabout on Park Lane, and although the Society isn't running now a couple of dedicated residents are still trying to keep it in good condition. They would appreciate a hand with the weeding during the summer and are looking for bark to keep the weeds down. If you think you can help please get in touch with me and I will pass your details on.

## **Coronation Children's Party**

We are holding a Children's Party on the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We are still sorting out the details but there will be a Kings and Queens fancy dress competition and other fun and games. Please let me know if you could help on the day.

## **Charvil Village Fete**

Do remember the date for the 2023 Village Fete is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at East Park Farm Sports field. The Parish Council will have a stand there where you can see the progress we are making on our initiatives.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall, please do come along to find out what your Council has been up to!

Please remember that if there are any issues you would like to raise with the council, you can contact me (Jane Hartley, [chair@charvil.com](mailto:chair@charvil.com)) or Miranda Parker, ([clerk@charvil.com](mailto:clerk@charvil.com)).

Jane Hartley, Chair Charvil Parish Council

## **EDITED EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **Planning, Environment and Highways Committee 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

To hear an update on the tree planting and the planting of the Queen's Commemorative oak tree

The oak tree planting went to plan, and Councillors Heath and Jones are going to install the plaque this week. The tree planting is progressing well, with many people involved, which is promising. The last planning sessions are planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December, at St Patrick's Recreation Ground.

### **Amenities Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

To hear an update on the results of the village fete for this year and plans for 2023

The Chair of the Fete Committee reported on the success of this year's village fete and outlined the monies taken and to which charities were supported (First Days, Cowshed, My Cancer My Choice & Berks & Bucks Wildlife), copies of the financial reports to be forwarded to the Assistant Clerk. Amongst several new ideas introduced this year were the silent auction and wrist bands for the bouncy castle – both which worked very well. In addition, the charities to be supported were chosen before the fete. The event was well attended and represented an affordable day out despite elevating household costs.

The fete committee have received some ideas for future activities to represent the wider community and would welcome any ideas the Parish Council may have. Although the clearing away after the fete was successful, the committee felt that they needed more volunteers to set up as they were 'up to the wire' in getting things ready for the start at 2pm. There were issues with licenses this year, but the committee will be prepared fully next year and will ensure the relevant documents are in place.

Following the recent AGM, the fete committee have requested for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 for next year's event. The fete committee feel this date gives them more time for planning and does not interfere with holidays or other planned events so attendance is expected to be higher than if it took place earlier in the year. The Assistant Clerk advised that a September date clashes with the Sunday football and means no access until after the games, if as in previous years pre-Covid a June/July date were taken there would be no such restriction and the committee would be granted access from early morning. As the Parish Council had specifically requested they consider a date in June/July to prevent damage to the football pitches, the request to hold the fete in 2023 at the start of September needs to be taken to the full council meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The fete committee members were thanked for their attendance and information presented, they then left the meeting. *Assistant Clerk's note: Financial reports have been received and forwarded to the Clerk for submission to full council. Advice has been sought from the Director of the grounds maintenance team and the opinion is that if the event were to take place in June or July that the ground would more likely be dry and there would be a longer period for recovery but if the event held in September the chance of the ground being wet is much higher and at that point in the season the growth is slowing down so less chance of recovery.*

### **Full Council Meeting held on 12th December 2022**

**To consider S137 grant applications from The Link Visiting Scheme, the Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Home-Start Wokingham District and Berkshire Blind Society and grant applications for Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre and 1<sup>st</sup> Charvil Scout group**

It was resolved to grant £250 to The Link Visiting Scheme, £100 to The Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Centre, £200 to Home-start Wokingham District, £200 to Berkshire Blind Society, £250 to Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre and £595 to 1<sup>st</sup> Charvil Scout Group, which was passed unanimously.

### **To review the Queen's Green Canopy planting, and possible planting in future years**

The project is now complete, although the Community Orchard continues for the next couple of years. It was decided that the Council would try to do some tree planting every National Tree Week, with Councillor Jones leading. The Council now has the advantage that it is working with the Borough Council, who are willing to support any planting the Council does. There has also been an offer from 1<sup>st</sup> Charvil Scouts to make bird boxes, which the Council would like to take up.

### **To note the reports from the Fete Committee, and to consider whether to accept the requested date for the next year's event**

The Fete Committee would like to hold the fete at the beginning of September, but this is not the preference for the Parish Council, as the football season will have already started, and would be happier if the fete returned to its historical time of June/July as this would allow for any ground damage to be repaired by the start of the football season. Because it can take quite a lot of time to organise the fete, it was decided that it would be unfair to insist upon June or July for 2023, so that it can be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in 2023, with the Village Hall as a back-up, but from 2024 it will have to return to the June or July period.

### **To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress**

The vision has been modified and was discussed. There were updates from each group, except the Community theme that has not yet progressed. It may prove to be useful to bring all community groups together to help progress this. There has been a delay in appointing a consultant, but hopefully a recommendation can be brought to Council at the next meeting.

### **Full Council Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

#### **To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

The vision has been modified and it has been decided to adopt a different approach to the plan. Now, each topic leader is going to draw up a first draft of their respective chapters by the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Once this has been done, it may be easier to attract a suitable consultant, because everyone will be clearer as to what needs to be done. The other main topic was the meeting with the Environment Agency on the removal of the temporary barrier, and the existing and future flood risks to Charvil.

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### **To hear an update on the Pavilion project**

The first point of discussion was whether the Council are trying to renovate the pavilion to last to the end of the lease, or to repair it to last another five years, by which time the funds may be available to revert to the rebuild plan. The general feeling was that the Council are still looking to rebuild, so at this point, the repairs should be tailored to that end. The clerk has been asked to get costings for all recommended items of repair from the architect before a final decision is made. It was suggested the Council ask the Borough whether they would contribute to the cost of the repairs given that they laid the path that is causing a lot of the problems.

### **To note a complaint about dogs on the pitches, and off leads around the school, and to decide whether the Council wants to take any further action**

There was a general concern about dangerous dogs, and particularly dogs near the school at drop-off and pick-up time. There were also concerns about the numbers of dogs each professional dog walker can walk at any one time, but this falls under the control of the Borough Council. The clerk was asked to see whether the dog warden would be able to visit Charvil at school pick-up time, and to talk to any dog owners with their dogs off lead at this time.

## **To consider whether the Council should organise a community event to mark the Coronation**

The Chair explained that she did not mean that the Council should organise an event, but rather other people in the village have asked whether they would have Council permission to use the East Park Farm pitches for an event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. This may include music, a bouncy castle, and possibly the Parish Council should have a presence there. It was agreed that Council would give their permission. *Clerk's note: all paperwork will have to be in place but at present there is no indication of who is taking responsibility for this event.*

## **Full Council Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **To consider the request to house the Round Table sleigh on Charvil Parish Council managed property**

While the Council was sympathetic, there is no suitable location that could keep it safe and secure on Parish lands.

### **To consider a request from the Borough Councillor for the Parish Council to pay for a bin to be placed at the cut-through between Pennine Way and East Park Farm Drive**

The Borough Councillor had provided the costs, but it was decided to ask for either the missing LB337 that was promised to return to Chiltern Drive, be placed there, or to move one of the two that are near the entrance into Vale View. The concern of the Council is, if they pay for this one, the Borough will slowly try to move more bins to be paid for by the Parish. The Village Warden has placed anti-littering signs at the offensive location, and has been litter picking there regularly, so the problem is less than it was, in any case.

### **To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

The group has been putting together the first draft of the plan. The Plan can accept allocated sites from the Local Plan or can nominate them. They can even "Masterplan". The next step is to find out the options and to then share with residents, as it is becoming increasingly clear that the nominated sites in Charvil will remain part of the plan.

In the light of the reply from the dog warden that there is no Public Space Protection Order in Charvil, there are no dog controls, and that she is unaware of any further issues beyond the one well-known case at school pick-up time, but that she will visit when she has time, is there a need to ask Wokingham whether they have any plans to limit the number of dogs one person can walk at a time

The clerk was to ask for a limit to the number of dogs walked by a professional dog walker at any one time.

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

- 223329 Application to vary condition 5 of planning consent 212128 for the proposed conversion of existing dwelling to 3no. 1-bedroom self-contained flats and 1 studio self-contained flat, associated parking and amenity space, plus changes to fenestration. (Part Retrospective). Condition 5 refers to Landscaping, and the variation is to allow the retention of concrete access paths and insert grassed areas and shingle around the base of the tree (Retrospective) at 36, Park View Drive South
- 223400 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form porch, single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory plus erection of a first-floor front extension at Ash House, Milestone Avenue
- 223465 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory at 23, Park View Drive South
- 223785 Application for the proposed erection of part single part two storey front extension, first floor rear extension plus changes to fenestration at 55 Park View Drive North
- 223798 Application for the proposed erection of a first-floor extension over garage and two storey side extension at 32 Gingells Farm Road
- 230221 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension, including alterations to the rear fenestration at Craigalea, Lands' End Lane
- 230108 Application for the proposed erection of a first-floor front extension to form 3 no. front-facing gables, plus changes to fenestration at 73, Park View Drive North
- 230259 Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6.00m, for which the maximum height would be 3.00m and the height of the eaves 2.80m at 20 Old Bath Road – for information only

## Council Comments on the following applications

- 223303      Application to vary conditions 2 and 3 of planning consent 220673 for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey front extension with part pitched roof and part flat roof. Single storey front extension to porch with canopy. Changes to the main roof from hip to gable to include 2 No rooflights, rear dormer and removal of rear chimney stack to create habitable space. Single storey rear extension with changes to fenestration. Condition 2 refers to approved details and the variation is to allow changes to the height of the single storey rear extension, the addition of a roof light and changes to fenestration, including the addition of a Juliet balcony at Iffleigh, Park Lane – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council would like to object to these variations of conditions for the following reasons.*

*1. The height of the single storey rear extension as built is at least 30cms more than the approved plan - possibly more - and this is enough to reduce light into the neighbouring property to the north side.*

*2. The dormer is highly visible from two roads, and at least three neighbouring properties, and as built, is completely out of keeping with the rest of the road. The finish needs to be in keeping with other properties, and have a tiled finish, as approved in the application 220763.*

*3. The inclusion of a full-length window and Juliet balcony at second floor level is unacceptable. This means the amenity of all three neighbouring properties is compromised.*

- 223455      Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the proposed erection of up to 230 dwellings, including open space, internal access, parking, drainage measures and landscaping following the demolition of all existing structures on New Bath Road, Twyford – The clerk was asked comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council has grave concerns about this application. This site, in the site assessment conducted by Wokingham Borough Council in October 2019, was deemed unsuitable. The land is largely grade one farmland, which is clearly economically viable, and at a time when food security is regarded as highly important, such development seems at odds with the national interest.*

*The main points of concern are as follows:*

- 1. Potential flooding effects on vulnerable areas of Charvil. While most of the proposed site is in Flood Zone one, the site falls sharply away to flood zone three, and the River Loddon. The proposal does include flood mitigation measures, but these will be managed privately, and as such, are always likely to be vulnerable to changes of ownership, liquidation etc., and there is no guarantee of long-term management. Even with these measures, there is little forward planning for the likely climate change effects in the area, with the River Thames likely to adversely affect the flow of the River Loddon in periods of extreme wet weather. In situations such as these, the extra pressure on the flood plain between Charvil and Twyford would be too great, and the most vulnerable homes in such circumstances, are in Charvil. In short, by building at the top of the hill, the homes at the bottom are likely to be adversely affected in the increasing extreme wet weather incidents.*
- 2. Sewerage. The area is served by the Wargrave Sewerage works that lies just to the north-west of the proposed site. While we understand that this is supposed to have the capacity for extra housing in the area, there is already an issue with its proximity to the confluence of the Rivers Loddon and Thames, that at times, sewage is released into the river. By reducing the ability of nearby land to take as much rainwater as it currently does, the net result is likely to be more incidents of such pollution. This is unacceptable.*
- 3. Traffic and transport. There are some worrying inaccuracies in the evidence supplied by the consultants on this topic. The bus service is limited and does not run on Sundays; there are no direct traffic-free footpaths between Twyford and Charvil, and neither is there access to the Thames Path on the south side of the river; the shared use cycle track along the A4 does not meet the new standards for active travel published in 2020; the assessments on traffic accidents are dominated by a period covering lockdowns and school closures; and other traffic assessments were undertaken in the summer holidays, when traffic is generally lower, and there was no school impact. Traffic flows in the morning are far greater than advertised, and the projected numbers of cars on the local network is much lower than is*

*likely to be the case. This will have an impact on both the air quality management zone in Twyford, but will also impact on Charvil, with greater tailbacks through the village, and more people trying to avoid the A4 by using the Old Bath Road, which also backs up through Charvil. It will also lead to more traffic trying to access Sonning Bridge. While the ambition of a 20-minute neighbourhood is laudable, the current plans are unlikely to achieve this.*

*Other general observations are that neither Charvil Parish Council nor its residents were consulted, although clearly, they are interested as quite several responses to the consultation were from Charvil residents; and this would be yet another piecemeal development, that will fail to serve the residents of the northern parishes, as it will do little to improve the major infrastructure that is necessary to accommodate large scale development.*

- 230113 Full application for the proposed erection of 1 no x 5-bedroom dwelling house and formation of new access following the stopping up of the existing access serving Lakeside on land adjoining Lakeside on Waingels Road – The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council objects to this application because it is further encroachment on land designated as countryside. This site is next to the only remaining ancient woodland in Charvil, is close to a bird sanctuary, and to bat roosts. While this plan is an improvement on an earlier one, it is still a development on a greenfield site, and is likely to disturb an area rich in wildlife. It also creates a precedent for other homes in the area to build in their gardens, slowly urbanising this area of countryside, and changing its character.*

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

- 223025 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 Application for the proposed garage conversion and changes to the flank and rear elevation fenestration at 112, The Hawthorns

- 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
- 223465 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory at 23. Park View Drive South
- 223303 Application to vary conditions 2 and 3 of planning consent 220673 for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey front extension with part pitched roof and part flat roof. Single storey front extension to porch with canopy. Changes to the main roof from hip to gable to include 2 No rooflights, rear dormer and removal of rear chimney stack to create habitable space. Single storey rear extension with changes to fenestration. Condition 2 refers to approved details and the variation is to allow changes to the height of the single storey rear extension, the addition of a roof light and changes to fenestration, including the addition of a Juliet balcony at Iffleigh, Park Lane
- 223329 Application to vary condition 5 of planning consent 212128 for the proposed conversion of existing dwelling to 3no. 1-bedroom self-contained flats and 1 studio self-contained flat, associated parking and amenity space, plus changes to fenestration. (Part Retrospective). Condition 5 refers to Landscaping, and the variation is to allow the retention of concrete access paths and insert grassed areas and shingle around the base of the tree (Retrospective) at 36, Park View Drive South
- 223400 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form porch, single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory plus erection of a first-floor front extension at Ash House, Milestone Avenue
- 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

- 223747 Application for the proposed loft conversion to create habitable accommodation with two dormers and rooflight to front elevation at 14 Thornbers Way
- 223785 Application for the proposed erection of part single part two storey front extension, first floor rear extension plus changes to fenestration at 55 Park View Drive North

**The Following Appeal was dismissed:**

- 222989 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent 220673 to allow the addition of 1 no. rooflight and 1 no. Juliet balcony
- 212029 Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. 3 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity space on land to the rear of 1 and 1a Milestone Crescent

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



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<b>Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2023</b>	
<b>24 April 2023</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
15 May 2023	Finance Committee
<b>17 May 2023</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>
<b>22 May 2023</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
05 June 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting – <b>To be confirmed (TBC)</b>
12 June 2023	Amenities Committee Meeting - <b>TBC</b>
<b>19 June 2023</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
03 July 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting – <b>TBC</b>
10 July 2023	Amenities Committee Meeting - <b>TBC</b>
<b>17 July 2023</b>	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>
<b>14 August 2023</b>	<b>Planning and Finance</b>
04 September 2023	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting ( <b>TBC</b> )
<p>MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE. RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS</p> <p><b>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</b></p>	

<b>Charvil Parish Councillors</b>		
Jane Hartley	Chair of Council	<b>07879 427350</b> <a href="mailto:chair@charvil.com">chair@charvil.com</a>
Pat Sutcliffe	Vice Chair of Council/ Chair of Amenities/Chair of Staffing	<b>07788 100935</b> <a href="mailto:patsutcliffe@charvil.com">patsutcliffe@charvil.com</a>
Mike Heath	Chair of Planning	<b>07902 306381</b> <a href="mailto:mikeheath@charvil.com">mikeheath@charvil.com</a>
Matt Walker	Chair of Finance	<b>07974 160846</b> <a href="mailto:mattwalker@charvil.com">mattwalker@charvil.com</a>
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	<b>07957 345652</b> <a href="mailto:narinderryatt@charvil.com">narinderryatt@charvil.com</a>
Rob Jones	Councillor	<b>07752 487604</b> <a href="mailto:Robjones@charvil.com">Robjones@charvil.com</a>
Isabelle Bray	Councillor	<b>07535 696947</b> <a href="mailto:Isabellebray@charvil.com">Isabellebray@charvil.com</a>
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
<b>Parish Council Officers</b>		
Miranda Parker	Parish Clerk	<b>901 7719</b> <a href="mailto:clerk@charvil.com">clerk@charvil.com</a>
Amanda Burton	Amenities Manager and Newsletter Editor	<b>07850 234363</b> <a href="mailto:bookings@charvil.com">bookings@charvil.com</a>

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

I hope you have all had a great start to 2023. It genuinely has been an energetic start to the year, with lots happening and many positive initiatives introduced. I have included a breakdown below of some of the key areas I have been focusing on during the first quarter of this year as well as some upcoming events over the Easter break.



### Spring Wildlife Walk

Due to the success and popularity of our guided nature walk around Charvil Country Park at the end of last year, we have decided to arrange another walk. The walk will be led by Simon Bartlam, countryside officer for Wokingham Borough Council, who will be explaining how the park is managed for wildlife, as well as the different habitats of the birds and animals that live there, and some other exciting facts!

The walk will be held in April and further details including the date and time will be available on social media and in local newspapers when confirmed.

### Community safety survey

Wokingham Borough Council has launched its annual community safety survey, inviting residents to share any issues or concerns they may have about crime or anti-social behaviour.

As part of the community safety partnership, the council works closely with the key organisations responsible for keeping the borough safe including Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, National Probation Service and the NHS. The partnership agrees the borough's response to crime and anti-social behaviour and sets priorities to ensure they are working together to create a safe community. They fund specific projects that are targeted by priorities and the council's survey results will feed into this decision-making process.

Residents can share their view anonymously. To fill out the annual community safety survey visit the council's Engage Wokingham Borough platform by Friday 7 April 2023. For help completing the survey or alternative formats, call the council on 0118 974 6000 or visit one of the borough's libraries.

### Planet pledges

Wokingham Borough Council has launched its Planet Pledge campaign to inspire and encourage people to make changes to help address the climate emergency.

A Planet Pledge is a solemn promise an individual chooses and delivers over the course of the year to tackle the climate emergency.

The council is working on a comprehensive carbon neutral plan for the borough and is asking people who live, work, study in Wokingham Borough to empower others by sharing and actioning at least one ambitious pledge on the Engage Wokingham Borough website. People are encouraged to look at small and big behavioural changes they can make to help tackle the climate emergency.

### **Village improvements**

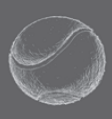
We have been making various small improvements to the village over the past 12 months, including new street signs, fence repairs and repairing potholes. If you notice anything that needs repair, please send a picture and location details to [sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk) and I will do my best to assist.

### **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](mailto:charvilatters@gmail.com). Also, if you know of an area that needs attention, please do contact us.

I hope you all had a fantastic start to the year and wish you all a lovely, happy and relaxing Easter break. If you would like to get in touch with me regarding any local issues, my e-mail address is [sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk).

Sam Akhtar, Borough Councillor

<p><b>NEED HELP WITH YOUR NEW BUSINESS?</b></p> <p><b>FREE SUPPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training</li><li>• Mentors</li><li>• Networking</li><li>• Funding Options</li></ul> <p><b>FIND OUT MORE</b> <a href="http://www.launchreading.org">www.launchreading.org</a></p> <p>Rotary Reading Abbey</p> <p><b>LAUNCH READING</b></p>	 <p><b>SUNDAY 10-11 9-13 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY 11-12 4-8 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>JUST £10 PER SESSION</b></p>	<p><b>TENNIS IN CHARVIL TEQNIC TENNIS</b></p>   <p><b>CHARVIL TENNIS COURTS</b></p> <p>Piggott Primary School, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TR</p> <p><b>ASK ABOUT A FREE TRIAL!</b></p>
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TO BOOK, CONTACT ED AT [ED.FRANCIS@TEQNIC.CO.UK](mailto:ED.FRANCIS@TEQNIC.CO.UK)

## **THAMES VALLEY POLICING UPDATE:**

### **Burglars Don't Need Brains - They Just Need an Opportunity**

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open, unlocked or are easy to force. Anything of value they spot through a window only spurs them on. But it really doesn't take much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking.

- Always secure your doors and windows and double lock UPVC doors
- Keep valuables out of site and away from windows and doors. Register them on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) - it's free and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief
- Fit a letterbox cage or restrictor to prevent attempts to open door latches or handles
- Keep keys and keyless entry fobs away from windows and doors, turn off the fobs wireless signal if possible and store it (and any spares) in a signal-blocking pouch/case or a secure metal container.
- Consider installing CCTV, a video doorbell or alarm
- Install an outside security light so intruders will be seen if they approach
- Secure access to the back garden. Are your gates and fences maintained?
- Cut back your hedges to aid visibility.
- Secure your shed; they often contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.
- Never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.
- Consider a timer switch for your lights, radio and TV to make your home look occupied when you are out

You can make your house look occupied without it costing more.

- Close curtains and blinds
- Hide valuables
- Ask a neighbour to park on your drive when you are away
- Make sure your post doesn't pile up
- Empty your bins regularly

Please contact us if you have any information relating to crime, suspicious vehicles or activity in your neighbourhood. Report online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk), call 101 or in an emergency 999. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

Receive free crime and information updates by registering for Thames Valley Alert at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk).

Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme – visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) for more information.

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

## **VILLAGE AND COUNCIL UPDATES:**

### **Bernie Leicester**

The Council would like to thank Bernie Leicester for his sterling service over the last two and a half years as Village Warden, and wish him well as he moves onto new challenges. We will all miss him greatly as he has always been willing to turn his hand to anything, and has put up with all the challenges the weather has thrown at him with remarkable good humour.

Many thanks!

### **Litter Pick**

The Council would like to thank all those who turned out on a rather cold, grey March afternoon, to search out various litter hotspots around the village. Around twenty bags of rubbish were collected by the Borough Council on Monday morning. We also thank those who could not make the official date, but who tackled other areas in the couple of weeks beforehand.



### **Councillors still required**

The Council welcome Stephen Lucas to their number at the April meeting of the Council, but that still leaves **Two** vacancies.

If you are interested, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at [clerk@charvil.com](mailto:clerk@charvil.com) for an informal chat about what it entails, or any of the Councillors who would be happy to give their perspective on the role.

# **CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE  
OF CHARVIL?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN  
FUTURE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE?**

**DO YOU HAVE THE TIME TO SPARE TO  
HELP BRING AMBITIOUS PLANS TO  
FRUITION?**

If the answer is yes, please put yourself forward for joining the Parish Council by registering an interest with the Clerk, on **9017719 or come along to one of our Monthly Meetings.**

Further information on the work of the Council can be obtained from any Councillor listed on the Parish Notice Boards, from the Clerk or from our web-site - [www.charvil.com](http://www.charvil.com)

Closing Date for Applications is Monday 15th  
May 2023



## **Tree planting**

With the success of this season's tree planting events in November culminating in the planting of the commemorative oak by Theresa May, winter has been a quieter but not inactive part of the year. Twenty whips which were surplus from the Wokingham Garden Forest project were planted around Charvil with 12 Hawthorne and Hazels planted in the hedge at St Patrick's recreation ground, 6 Wild Cherry and Silver Birch in the East Park Farm Mound area and finally a Field Maple and a Rowan in the East Park Farm Children's playground vicinity.

The hedge at St Patricks has had some new protective fencing put in place and general weeding and adding of woodchips was completed at the line of silver birches in St Patrick's. Hopefully we won't be having the drought conditions of last summer this time around, but the weeding and woodchips are a great insurance and protection for the trees against dry conditions.

As we move through the warmer months, we probably will need another watering campaign and anyone interested in helping out can get the details from our Parish Clerk via email: [clerk@charvil.com](mailto:clerk@charvil.com). Since planting, 95% of the whips have survived which is a great number given the adverse conditions and is down to the care program from Charvil residents. The trees that didn't make it have all been replaced and so we are back to full strength - 233 trees planted by residents over the last two seasons and 90 by the Scout group.

Next planting will be in November but there's plenty of activity in the meantime if you would like to be involved!

## **Anyone for Tennis???**

The new season Annual Family Tennis Pass is now available. Membership allows you to play tennis for up to two hours a day from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024.



Funds raised from the passes are reinvested into the maintenance and improvement of our sports and recreational facilities across the village.

For more details or for an application form please email: [bookings@charvil.com](mailto:bookings@charvil.com)

## **Charvil Parish Council Social Media**

In the UK, there are almost 45 million Facebook users, and over 34 million Instagram users. More than half of users of these platforms log on multiple times each day, with 98% of users accessing these sites via a mobile device.

Having had a website and social media accounts since 2015, Charvil Parish Council was looking to update and improve these, exploring how digital media can be used to better engage with local residents.

The Pandemic years of 2020 & 2021 accelerated a shift in behaviour, with people from across all generations using social media to stay in contact with friends, family and local events. Last year, the Parish Council approved the funding to appoint someone to look after their online presence and this role commenced in February 2023.

With the average thumb scrolling through 300 feet of content each day (that's 20 miles per year), ensuring that the Council's social media is eye catching is a key area for improvement. To help with the new look & feel of the social media accounts, a relaunch was needed, and this took place on 14th February 2023 with a new Facebook page and Instagram account.

Based on some feedback from local residents, the aim is to inform and engage Charvil residents on local issues and activities. We've been posting 5-6 times each week since launching, featuring everything from roadworks & planning applications to Council news & local events.

Meanwhile, the Charvil.com website is currently being redesigned. The new site will have local information & activities at its core, while still meeting the statutory requirements of local governments to have key documents available to the public. When this is ready to go live, it will be publicised through our social media, and the Charvil Village News. While this work is ongoing, you may find that our website is not fully updated.

Working with the Parish Council and the Amenities Manager, we are also exploring improvements to our buildings, such as installing WiFi and hearing loops. It is hoped that these will improve the accessibility of our facilities and ensure that future improvements have the necessary infrastructure.

While shifting to more digital content, we are aware that not all residents access social media or the internet regularly. Our Village Noticeboards and this magazine will continue to be updated for the foreseeable future.

You can find all of our Social Media links, website, details about Parish facilities, the Neighbourhood Plan and much more on our Linktree page at [Linktr.ee/Charvil](http://Linktr.ee/Charvil) or by scanning this QR code which can also be found on the Village Noticeboards, Village Hall & Pavilion buildings.



If you are involved in a local community group or activity, and would like to be featured on our social media pages, you can email [media@charvil.com](mailto:media@charvil.com)

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### We would love to hear your thoughts:

Would you be interested in the introduction of an online version of this magazine? We are investigating ways in which the magazine can become more accessible.

Currently the magazine is delivered to every household in the village and a copy uploaded to the Parish Council website.

Please share your thoughts with the Clerk to the Council on email: [clerk@charvil.com](mailto:clerk@charvil.com)

# MOBILE POST OFFICE IN CHARVIL



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**Park View Drive South, near the Village Shop**  
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**Use it or Lose It!**

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## FOODBANK DONATION DROP OFF POINT

Anyone can run into difficulties and need assistance.

If you would like to donate to the Woodley Foodbank who serve Charvil, we have a drop off point in the foyer of the Charvil Village Hall. The hall is open weekdays.

Thank you to all those who have donated so far, regular trips to drop the parcels to the foodbank have been made and have been gratefully accepted.

For more details on food items needed please visit <https://woodley/foodbank.org/>

## 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 summer term starts on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Any updates or for further information find us on [www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub).



## QUIZ - What are the surnames of these famous people born in Berkshire?

- 1) Kate \_\_\_\_\_  
actress; born 1974; films include The reader
- 2) Sam \_\_\_\_\_  
director; born 1965; directed Skyfall and Spectre
- 3) Ricky \_\_\_\_\_  
comedian and actor; born 1961; wrote Flanimals book series
- 4) Geraldine \_\_\_\_\_  
actress; born 1932; played Miss Marple in ITV series Marple
- 5) Tracey \_\_\_\_\_  
actress and singer; born 1959; starred in Three of a kind
- 6) Lucy \_\_\_\_\_  
actress; born 1970; played Lisa Fowler in Eastenders
- 7) Will \_\_\_\_\_  
singer; born 1979; won Pop Idol in 2002
- 8) Chris \_\_\_\_\_  
TV personality and former radio DJ; born 1946; co-host on Tiswas
- 9) Michael \_\_\_\_\_  
author; born 1926; buried in Paddington Old Cemetery
- 10) Chesney \_\_\_\_\_  
singer; born 1971; best known for The one and only

Answers can be found on last page

## 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. Our Scouts have even helped with the making and installing of Bird boxes in conjunction with the parish council who kindly donated some funds for the materials needed, we are also going to do a little treasure for various groups can go looking for them. We are also starting planning for our various camps and exciting activities that all ramp up in this summer term coming. 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](mailto: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.



**BEAVERS**

  
**Scouts**  
1st Charvil Scouts

Is your child between 6-8½yrs old and enjoys a challenge and the outdoors, Then we can help!!

We currently have places for Children in our Tuesday Group (6-7pm) and would love them to join. Don't worry if your child is not yet 6yrs let us know and we can pop them on the waiting list ready!!

We also hold Beavers on a Monday

Contact us on [info@1stcharvil.org.uk](mailto:info@1stcharvil.org.uk) or PM me and i can give you more information

**Do more.  
Share more.  
Be more.**



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

#SkillsForLife

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Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers, try and try againers, leaders and team workers.

Every week we give almost half a million 4-25 year olds the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams; the skills they need for life.

1st Charvil Scout Group are currently looking for volunteers to join our teams to support more young people in gaining skills and experiences for life.

If you are free on Tuesday evenings to join the Cubs Team (age 8-10yrs ) or Wednesday evenings to join the Scout Team (age 10-14yrs). Please get in touch.

We welcome volunteers from every community and background. You don't need to have been a Scout or have any experience to get involved.

For more information go to:

[www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/volunteer/](http://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/volunteer/)



**Scouts**  
Royal Berkshire

#SkillsForLife



## **SAVE THE DATE—CHARVIL VILLAGE FETE**

Sunday 3rd September 2-6pm at East Park Farm Sports Field

Family events and a range of activities for all ages to provide a lovely day for the village to come together.

Supporting our local charities: Cowshed, First Days, Wokingham Food Bank, Camp Mowhawk and Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre.

If anyone is able to help out on the day the Committee would be very grateful, especially setting up and clearing away, please contact the Charvil Fete via the FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CharvilVillageFete>) if you think you can spare some time on the day.

**POLEHAMPTON SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**  
**Registered charity 309032**

Polehampton Junior School  
Kibblewhite Crescent  
Twyford  
RG10 9AX



***Save the date! – reopening for the season on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.***

Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with us on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with an extended swim session, refreshments and a slice of cake. Further details of this special opening event to follow.

**Membership applications opening soon!**

For further details and instructions on how to sign up please visit our website [www.psaswimming.co.uk](http://www.psaswimming.co.uk) and click on the green button 'Join us/Renew' to register. You can also follow us on Facebook 'Polehampton Swimming Association' where you will find up to date news and a link to our booking system.

**Get involved – become a Polehampton volunteer. We need you!**

The swimming pool is a community facility, run by a small committee along with volunteers from the local community. Please get involved to help maintain and safeguard this wonderful pool for the future. We are especially looking for volunteers to help with water testing, gardening and cleaning as well as poolside supervisors. No previous knowledge is needed as training will be given. We would also welcome any help from specialised tradespeople to help keep our costs down.

If you would like to get involved, please contact the Chairperson, Sharon Searle on 07765 842323. We would love to hear from you!

## Facilities

Membership fee – only £50 per family for the season – still great value for money! The pool is open from May through to September, except for bank holidays.

Facilities include:-

25m heated outdoor pool

Heated showers

Changing rooms, lockers and toilets

Pool toys and swim aids

Swimming sessions for all ages and abilities

Access to children's swimming lessons

Private hire and children's pool parties

Well equipped kitchen area with tea and coffee facilities & fridge

Tuck shop and refreshments available

## Our swimming sessions -

The pool is open outside of school hours and there are a range of sessions to suit all ages

Please see our full timetable below **and retain for future reference.**

## PLEASE NOTE WE ARE CLOSED ON BANK HOLIDAYS

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	CONTACT
6.00 - 8.00	6.30-8.00 Early Bird		6.30-8.00 Early Bird		6.30-8.00 Early Bird		Ilker 07879 430336
8.00 - 10.00							
10.00 - 12.00						Family Swim	Sharon 07765 842323
12.00 - 14.00							
14.00 - 16.00							
16.00- 18.00	Family Swim		Family Swim	Family Swim	Family Swim		Emma 07582 847650
18.00 - 19.00			Teen Lane Swim				Peter 01189 340129
19.00 - 20.00	Adult Lane Swim		Adult Lane Swim	Adult Lane Swim			Sharon 07765 842323

## **ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY SINGING FOR THE BRAIN IN CHARVIL**

A singing group for people with dementia and their carers is running 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.



## **TWYFORD & RUSCOMBE FLORAL ART CLUB**

We are a friendly group who meet at Charvil Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. We have about 20 members (new members and visitors are always welcome) and each month we watch a NAFAS area demonstrator create beautiful flower arrangements using their expertise and inspiring ideas. We also run practical sessions when we make our own arrangements.

If you are interested in learning to be creative with flowers or just enjoy watching someone else do it, come along to any meeting. Visitors £6 per meeting (first meeting is free), we also have refreshments, a raffle and an optional competition.

Details from [twyfordandruscombe@bbandoflowers.org.uk](mailto:twyfordandruscombe@bbandoflowers.org.uk) or 07968 589935

## THE PROJECT SINGERS

Charvil based choir, The Project Singers, have been busy working on songs on the theme of travel this term for their project 'And wherever you go'. Songs have included Route 66, Beyond the sea, Homeward bound and Little wheel a-turnin'. The choir has a section for ladies who rehearse on Monday evenings and also a section for girls between the ages of 10 and 18 who rehearse on Sunday evenings. The project will finish with a concert at St Mary's Church, Twyford on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Plans for our next project are already well underway. 'Thank you for the music' will run from May to November with a concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be working on popular songs that have stood the test of time. Songs include A tribute to Queen, Stand by me, You raise me up, My heart will go on and True colors. We will also be doing some carol singing in the area in December. We have one space in the ladies' choir and one space in the girls' choir so if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

We will be holding a Family Quiz Evening on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm – teams of up to six are welcome to come along - £5 per person – bring your own drinks and nibbles. If you would like more details please get in touch.



Suzanne Newman – Musical Director  
0118 9340589 / [suzanneynewman@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanneynewman@btinternet.com)

## SINGING DATES

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April there will be a fun sight-singing evening for ladies at Charvil Hall between 8.00 and 9.30pm. If you would like to improve your sight-singing come along and join us! £10 which includes a book to keep.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June (10.30am to 12.00pm) at Charvil Hall, we are holding a fun singing morning for ladies. We will be working on 'Love, laughter and legends' - a great medley of songs by the Beatles arranged for 2-part choir. £10 which includes music and light refreshments.

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July (2.00 to 4.00pm) at Charvil Hall, we have another singing session for female voices. This time we will be working on some American folk-songs including 'Shenandoah', 'Simple gifts' and 'Buffalo girls' arranged for 2-part choir. £10 which includes music and light refreshments.

If you would like to book a place for any of these sessions please get in touch.

Suzanne Newman  
0118 9340589 – [suzanneynewman@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanneynewman@btinternet.com)



**Mr Ranju Khurana**

BDS (Lon) MFDSRCS (Eng)  
MClinDent (Lon) MRD (Eng)  
Registered Specialist Prosthodontist  
GDC No: 74950

**Dr Anu Chadha**

BDS (Lon) MFDSRCS (Edin)  
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[www.wargravedentalclinic.co.uk](http://www.wargravedentalclinic.co.uk)**

## **SONNING FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY**

We are still enjoying well supported Meetings for which we have to thank our loyal and supportive members.

We have enjoyed some really excellent demonstrations so far this year. Our Meeting for April practical and social.

A demonstration on Hanging Basket by a lovely gentleman, Alan, from Henry Street. So we all will be hanging and showing off our baskets this Summer.

Our Meetings are the second Thursday of each month. At The Charvil Village Hall. Commencing 2.00pm prompt. We welcome visitors for a very reasonable fee of £6.00 which cover an excellent demonstration plus a social cup of tea to follow. Come and join us.

## READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

The Club has settled down into it's new monthly instead of fortnightly meetings and the members definitely prefer the change with attendance holding up well with about 25 members coming to each meeting. Sadly we do not seem to be attracting new members.

Auction nights are held every second or third meeting and are very popular, with a good attendance of members and better quality cigarette cards being submitted by some members lately. Members of the public can offer cigarette cards and postcards to sell, details and advice are available by ringing 0118 9695155. The meeting in February was an Auction, while in March member Graham Wright gave a presentation on unusual Advertising and novelty postcards in his collection. Our next meeting at Charvil Village Hall will be held on April 13th and will be a members auction, starting at 8.00pm. Collectors Fairs have suffered badly following the shutdown during Covid and do not appear to be recovering, so collectors are turning to postal sales, auction houses and e-bay where some unique items can be found with a lot of diligent searching, although not a lot of local postcards are turning up, but the true collector always has the hope that a 'gem' will turn up shortly.

Our next meetings are April 13th, Auction, May 11th a talk by member Trevor Cornford called "Adventures in life", June 8th, members bring along their recent 'finds' and talk about them, this is always a popular and interesting evening. July 13th, local professional Auctioneer, Gary Arkell (Loddon Auctions, Arborfield) will give a talk on some of his experiences as an auctioneer which should be very enlightening and interesting. August 10th is the popular mini-fair held in the hall, starting at 8.00pm, when members and members of the public can sell and buy ephemera, postcards and cigarette cards.

All of our evenings are free and you are welcome to come along on the second Thursday of each month (January excluded), starting at 8.00pm. Further details are available by ringing 0118 9695155.

Roy Sheppard



*Photographic postcards relating to Twyford events of almost a 100 years ago*

## CHARVIL ART GROUP

Could art be your new hobby? Charvil Art Group is a local group who meet on Wednesday evenings at the Charvil Hall to practice and encourage each other with our art. We would love to see some new members! We like to have tutors once or twice a term when finances allow. We hope to encourage each other and try out new ideas to keep us enthused. The summer term would be a nice time to come and meet us, light evenings making it easier to venture out. Find out more on our website [www.charvilartgroup.co.uk](http://www.charvilartgroup.co.uk)



## HOW CALL BLOCKING TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP YOUR LOVED ONES STAY INDEPENDENT

We're all aware of scams targetting the elderly and the vulnerable. Many of these start with a simple phone call, but can result in the victim losing thousands of pounds.

An incredibly useful tool is a telephone call blocker which provides an interception and screening process for all incoming calls. It is a simple device that can work with the existing phone and it can be installed and set up within 10 minutes. It's small so can be tucked away so as not to cause any concern or worry to the resident. It dials into a central control panel on a weekly basis to keep itself updated with known scam telephone numbers and these are automatically blocked. Friends and family and important numbers can be added to a trusted caller list allowing those calls to get through immediately. There are different levels of settings depending on the vulnerability of the person receiving the calls and so can also be very useful for those suffering with Alzheimer's or Dementia.

These devices can be supplied and fitted free of charge via the Public Protection Partnership on a permanent loan basis, to be returned when no longer needed. Since 2017 the Public Protection Partnership have installed 80 call blockers to protect older and vulnerable people from nuisance and scam phone calls. So far 43,878 calls have been blocked, and trueCall\* estimate that as a result of the blockers been installed 71 scams have been prevented. Residents, and their families, feels happier and safer knowing that when their phone rings it will be someone they want to talk to.

If you have a vulnerable relative or neighbour living in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire or Wokingham and you feel that they could benefit from this safeguarding measure then please contact PPP for more information at [tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk) or call 01635 519930.

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Our volunteer drivers use their own cars to help mobile, mainly elderly people who do not have other transport options. Clients must pre-register with our charity and be physically and mentally independent or bring a helper.



To enrol as a client or request transport to a medical or dental appointment (one week's notice needed). Please phone 0118 934 3010 (24 hour answerphone) or email [twadvoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twadvoc@yahoo.co.uk).

Alternatively, you may wish to volunteer as a driver, to find out more look at our website [www.twyfordvolunteerdrivers.org.uk](http://www.twyfordvolunteerdrivers.org.uk) or use the contact details above.

## **TWYFORD LIBRARY**

**Storytime-** 14 April 11am-11.30am



Join us for some fun Rabbit themed stories and a colouring activity .

For ages 2-7

Places must be booked. Free event

Visit our Events pages at [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)

**Reminiscence Club-** meets the second Monday of each month ( not Easter Monday) 2pm-3.30pm

Come and enjoy a chat about time gone by

**Twyford Tuesday Book Group-** meets the second Tuesday in each month 2.30pm-3.30pm

Friendly book group discusses books on a theme

**Knit and Natter-** meets on the third Tuesday of each month 2pm-3pm

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### Quiz Answers

1) Kate Winslet

2) Sam Mendes

3) Ricky Gervais

4) Geraldine McEwen

5) Tracey Ullman

6) Lucy Benjamin

7) Will Young

8) Chris Tarrant

9) Michael Bond

10) Chesney Hawkes

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**THE HAWTHORNS**

**CHARVIL, READING, RG10 9TT**

**3RD JANUARY 2023**

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**CONTACT JULIE 07752313401**

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