

Charvil Village News

Winter 2023



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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Village News. Inside you will find updates from the Parish Council and Borough Councillor along with lots of information and news from some of the many clubs that are thriving in the village.

We are always keen to receive magazine contributions from residents and local groups — if you have a club/group you wish to publicise, have an idea for an article, or perhaps a beautiful photograph taken in the local area, please do contact me.

As always I would like to thank the volunteers who, come rain or shine, give up their valuable time to deliver the magazines to all the homes in Charvil. If you would like to lighten the load and help with future deliveries, please do get in touch.

I hope the Season of Goodwill proves to be aptly named and that the forthcoming New Year proves happy and prosperous for you all.

Amanda Burton, Editor



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Hello Everyone,

With the winter holiday period approaching rapidly, it's time to take stock of the Parish Council's activities this year.

Our biggest task was to see the Pavilion refurbishment through to a successful conclusion and, in this, I think we have been successful, earning a "thumbs up" from the sports teams for the modernised and now fully-functional changing rooms and grateful comments from the regular social users of the main hall and kitchen areas. Some of you may have seen the articles about this in the Henley Standard and Maidenhead Advertiser.

We have continued with our tree-planting programme and also replaced a few of the "whips" from the last round of planting which hadn't survived. Having added to the fruit trees in the Community Orchard, we are very grateful to those of you who have generously sponsored these trees for community use and enjoyment. We are looking forward to the time when we can start harvesting the fruit and we'll be sure to let you know when this will be. In addition to this, one of our Councillors, Mike Heath, led a small group of children in an acorn planting adventure in the scrub land near the end of Chiltern Drive/Vale View.

We have held a meeting with local Flood Warden, Duncan McGregor and now have a greater appreciation of the flood risks in our area and we shall be supporting Duncan in the development of a local Flood Plan.

Many of you will have been involved in commenting on the planning application for outline approval for another 75 houses on "Hicks' Field" in Park Lane and it was good to see some concerned residents at our public meetings which were held to explain the plans and discuss residents' reactions to them. We took all these residents' opinions into account when formulating the Parish Council's official response to the application.

The "drama of the year" award goes to the appearance of a large sinkhole in the East Park Farm carpark, which even drew attention from BBC regional news reporters. Thankfully, no-one was hurt by this event. We want to get the carpark back in action as soon as possible but safety is paramount, so I ask for your patience at this time. We will do everything possible to hasten the repair process, but there are a number of factors to take into account before this can happen. In the meantime, we have made the Village Hall carpark available for School, Pavilion and Sports Field users.

A Christmas party is planned for 17th December to turn on the Christmas tree lights and enjoy some seasonal carols and refreshments in the Village Hall.

We are saying a sad “Goodbye” this month to Councillor Mike Heath, Chair of our Planning, Environment and Highways Committee. He has been a stalwart in the Council since 2020 and has been our “Green” face, leading eco-friendly activities and organising much of the tree-planting, not to mention digging the holes to put the trees in! He will be much missed and we wish him and his family all the very best as they emigrate in the New Year. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done for Charvil!

With the departure of Mike, we will be 2 Councillors short on our team. Do **you** have a desire to help Charvil become the best it can be? We are a friendly bunch of people, with no political affiliations and we are nothing whatsoever to do with the Church, despite the word “Parish” in our title.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining us, please contact our Parish Clerk, Miranda Parker, by email on clerk@charvil.com

You can follow our activities on [**linktr.ee/charvil**](https://linktr.ee/charvil) to gain access to our website and media feeds.

I hope to continue to see the growing evidence of community spirit in Charvil in the New Year; meanwhile, all that remains is for me, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you and your families the very best for the festive season!

Pat Sutlieff, Chair

EDITED EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting held on 3rd July 2023

Highways

To note the latest data from the Speed Indicator Device

It was noted that while speeds are modest, the recorded levels of traffic on Park Lane have doubled at peak times from 160 vehicle movements an hour in September 2021 to around 350 now. There may be a variety of reasons for this but there is likely to have been an impact with the new developments on Park Lane and Sandford Farm now fully open.

Planning

To approve the agenda for the upcoming meeting with a local property developer

It was agreed that Councillor Jones would circulate an agenda, based upon the findings of the Neighbourhood Plan survey and Local Plan consultations, including 61 homes instead of 75, whether there was a possibility of the Parish Council and the developer working together on providing some of the facilities residents would like, including a community hub, green spaces, interconnectivity, and a path between Twyford Station and Charvil.

Amenities Meeting on 10th July 2023

To discuss any matters arising from the fete committee report

Councillor Bray asked the Chair of the Fete Committee if she could give a brief summary as to how the committee had come to the decision to cancel the fete. It was explained that the group were divided over whether to go ahead or not. With the Pavilion building not being available because of the refurbishment project, the factors considered were the electrics, toilets, lack of shade, no drinking water and tables and chairs. The requirement for a generator for power raised concerns regarding safety and cost. The longer standing committee members were more in favour of cancelling and concentrating all efforts into 2024 especially as the costs would eat into the charitable donations. Feedback received so far was that people were understanding and supportive. Councillor Bray enquired why it could not be held in the village hall instead – the Chair of the Fete Committee explained it had been written off in the past as the fete event had grown since 2019 and the footfall was higher as there was more visibility, but also that the hall is close to the road and there is less parking. It was also asked if the school had been approached for access, the Chair of the Fete Committee explained that to date there had been no previous support or attendance of the fete from the school and it was presumed that as the fete would be held out of term time that there would be a reluctance from the school for the caretaker to open the building and be on-site during the event. With the new school management structure coming in for the next academic year, it is hoped this may change for future events. Councillor Sutlieff referred to the Constitution of the Charvil Village Fete Association as it implies the primary aim of the event is to provide a day of family entertainment at a village fete and that secondary was raising of charitable donations, the Chair of the Fete Committee agreed that this currently is the aim and if it were to change then the Constitution would need to be altered.

Although the problems raised were not insurmountable the Chair of the Fete Committee further explained that there is a great deal of stress generated by the organising of the relevant licences, the concern about bad weather, conditions of the ground and not having a building to work with fundamentally changes the risk assessment and would potentially risk jeopardising any future event if things went wrong. All efforts will be concentrated into the organising of the fete in June 2024. Councillor Jones said from a Parish Council perspective it was disappointing but understood and supported the decision needs to be made by the people who organise the event. Councillor Hartley thanked the Chair of the Fete Committee for her efforts and to those involved in the event. *Assistant Clerk's note: it was requested by the Committee that enquiries are made with the building contractors regarding the power capabilities and possible external access to power at the pavilion and if required whether they be changed/increased for future users/events.*

To hear an update following the meeting with Oliver Cloke regarding the potential Pre-School provision in the village

The committee reviewed the notes provided following the recent meeting. The Assistant Clerk was asked to send a copy of the notes from the meeting to Oliver Cloke for his information and to enquire as to the latest status on the points that he had taken away from the meeting to consider. Clarity is required on several areas – invoicing regularity, deposit information, Government vouchers, outside fenced area, nursery operating hours, waste disposal, management information and Ofsted certification. On receipt of the answers from Oliver, a formal contract/agreement needs to be drawn up with a start date and it needs to be signed and an invoice issued in advance. If the start date is confirmed to be January 2024, an invoice needs to be issued in September for January-March and paid in advance, this is to mitigate the risk to the Council as notice will need to be served on the current users of the pavilion although best endeavours will be made to accommodate those users in the village hall instead.

Full Council Meeting held on 17th July 2023

Open Forum

Two of the members of the public attended as they have concerns about Planning Application number 231261, an extension at 20, Old Bath Road. Firstly, on a previous permitted development application at this property earlier in the year, there were mistakes on the planning history, including successful applications in Sonning and Winnersh. These included an application for a large two storey extension, and it was felt that this mistake may have put neighbours off objecting as it looked like a waste of time. On the application itself, the neighbour felt that he would lose both privacy and light due to the way the houses are configured if such a large extension were allowed.

A third member of the public was attending because he is interested in joining the Council. He gave a brief introduction to himself and why he wanted to join the Council, and it was explained that the Council would decide at a closed session at the end of the meeting, and the clerk would inform him of the result.

To consider the S137 applications from Keep Mobile and Parenting Special Children, and for grant donations from Wokingham's Citizen's Advice and Charvil Art Group and to agree suitable allocations

These were awarded as follows: Keep Mobile - £300 (S137), Parenting Special Children - £300 (S137), Citizen's Advice Wokingham – £600 (Grant) and Charvil Art Group - £200 (Grant)

To consider any replies from Oliver Cloke at the Henley Village Montessori

It was reported that since the Amenities Committee Meeting, Oliver Cloke had communicated that the current economic circumstances and the requirements of the Parish Council that wholly government funded children could attend, along with a request for smaller deposits, meant that it would not be financially viable for him to pursue the setting up of a pre-school in Charvil. Clearly, Councillors were disappointed, but the clerk had been in touch with the Early Years team at Wokingham, who are keen to help provide a provider in Charvil. The clerk is to keep communicating with them to see if they can help. The Social Media assistant will post something to explain what has happened, to keep residents informed.

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To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Draft Plan is still a work in progress, but this is partly to do with the fact that Localities have not yet released the funding for Neighbourhood Plans this year, and it is by no means certain that the Government will release the funding. If needs be, it might be that the Parish Council has to fund the Consultant and technical reports, but this may well be money well-spent, providing that Neighbourhood Plans continue to be supported by central Government. It is unfortunate that the Local Plan has stalled, which also doesn't help matters, nor does it help that it can take up to two years from where we are with the plan to get it signed off. *Clerk's note: the funding has now been released, and it is hoped this is a sign of continuing Government support for Neighbourhood Plans.*

With the cancellation of the fete, to consider holding an event organised by the Parish Council either before the winter sets in, at Christmas, or both, and how to re-launch the Pavilion once the refurbishment is complete

It was agreed that an event should be held at Christmas – maybe carol singing and mulled wine – it was agreed that Suzanne Newman would be asked if she would organise the carols. It was also agreed that an event should be held to launch the re-opening of the pavilion – possibly ask the groups who use our facilities if they would like to get involved and provide a barbecue or hog roast. Because of the summer break, it was agreed that Councillors Walker, Jones and Bray would organise the event as there is no meeting until September.

To hear feedback from a meeting with a local property developer and to approve meeting with Wokingham Borough Council regarding possible CIL expenditure in Charvil in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Jones, Heath and Sutcliffe met with Mr Hicks and Dierdre Wells along with the clerk. They ran through the Charvil Parish Council's concerns about the numbers of dwellings proposed (75 rather than the 61 proposed in the Local plan) and what would help the parish cope with more development, and how they might be able to help. Dierdre Wells explained that because of the amount developers have to pay in CIL, there is not much scope for helping communities with the extra things that are needed any more, but they would support Wokingham spending the CIL in Charvil if the Parish does not have its Neighbourhood Plan in place by the time the Full Planning Application is approved.

Given where the Parish is with its plan, it would be touch and go as to whether a plan could be in place in time. This is why it may be a good idea to talk to Wokingham, as there are clearly things required in the Village that can only be paid for by the Parish Council if it had 25% of the CIL receipts. There is clearly a need to consult residents, and it was felt this should be done after a meeting with Wokingham.

To approve the co-option of the resident who would like to join the Council

It was resolved to co-opt the resident, Lee Cripps, which was carried unanimously.

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting on 4th September 2023

Highways

To note that the move of the Speed Indicator Device to Wargrave for a month

This was noted and will be there until at least 22nd September.

To note the Crash Map data

Councillor Jones had sourced the crash map data for the main accident spots in Charvil. These only include incidents where the police were called, and so for the roundabout junction of Park Lane and Old Bath Road, there had been five slight accidents in the last five years. The most accidents happened at the Wee Waif roundabout and the junction of Park View Drive North and South and the A4.

To consider the issues around the mini roundabout at the junction of Old Bath Road and Park Lane, especially in the light of the crash map data

Looking at the data, there is not enough concrete evidence to push for any major changes to the junction, despite the anecdotal evidence of many crashes there. However, the tree on the corner of Park Lane and Old Bath Road could do with cutting back to improve visibility.

To consider a request for double yellow lines on part of Milestone Avenue and whether the Council should put in a request for some in other parts of the village

There was some doubt as to whether Milestone Avenue was the top traffic priority, and that there were more dangerous spots in Charvil that would benefit more from double yellow lines, one being East Park Farm Drive. The clerk explained that the Council would need to provide evidence that there are safety concerns there. *Clerk's note: WBC have now provided the criteria for installing new double yellow lines, so the Councillors are aware of the evidence needed.*

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Amenities Meeting on 11th September 2023

To note the acts of recent vandalism – graffiti, broken fence rail, damaged tennis court fencing and the fire damage to the path outside the pavilion

The committee was informed of issues and that they had been reported to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team at Wokingham Borough Council, it was also confirmed that some of the damage had been reported to the police. The committee was informed that the contractors working at the pavilion had offered to make repairs to the path outside the pavilion and to assist in replacing the broken fence rail. In future it was suggested it may be worth considering logging all vandalism problems to the police via the online tool.

To note the latest status of the refurbishment of the pavilion and estimated reopening date

The committee heard that the refurbishment project was on schedule and that the building is set to reopen w/c 25th September. There are a few minor setbacks – it is not possible to have the sophisticated thermostats for the heating without a complete rewire of the building so plan will revert to individual heating controls, parts for the permanent solution for the step between the showers and changing rooms has not arrived yet, there is a temporary measure in place until the part arrives. The painting of the outside of the building will commence w/c 25th September and some external drain work needs to be completed. The full drainage change is not required, after investigation it was found that a faulty valve had been causing some of the blockage issues, all such valves in the building will be changed to avoid future problems.

To formulate a plan for the redevelopment/possible relocation of the children's play park at East Park Farm and the possible development of the land alongside it (behind the lime trees).

A unanimous decision to revamp the park was reached, whether this takes the form of replacement of equipment where the park is located currently or a complete redevelopment of the park and location to be investigated further. A working party is to be set up to provide an options appraisal to include rough idea of cost, what set up (equipment & location) works best and what funding or grants may be available. The working party will be led by Pat Sutcliffe and aided by Isabelle Bray and Matt Walker; the Assistant Clerk will assist the group. All ideas to be listed and those not applicable to the play park can be considered for other areas in the village and added as potential ideas to the Five-Year Plan. Group to give a status update at the next meeting.

Full Council Meeting on 18th September 2023

Open Forum

Two members of the fete committee, one member of the public and the prospective new caretaker all attended. One of the members of the fete committee spoke about why it would be better for them to hold the fete in September, and that it was hard to get volunteers at the best of times, without losing some because of Parish Council intransigence, and that while they respected the Parish Council's decision to want the fete in early summer, they questioned some of reasons for this. The representatives of the fete stayed until the end of the discussion on the fete and left at 9pm.

Co-option of Lee Cripps to the Council

Lee Cripps was duly co-opted onto the Council, after signing the required paperwork.

To consider a request from the fete committee to hold the fete on 1st September next year, rather than a date in June or July as agreed last year

After a colourful, and slightly acrimonious discussion, it was resolved to allow the fete to be held in September, providing there was a plan presented to the Council as to how they were going to protect the pitches, especially if the weather is inclement, which was carried by a majority. The plan needs to be presented and accepted by the end of the calendar year.

To consider an idea from some residents to try to get some kind of repair café going in Charvil as they have in Spencer's Wood

The clerk was asked to contact the group based in Spencer's Wood, and the Media assistant will put something out on Facebook to see whether there are any people willing to help repair things, and to assess demand.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Draft Plan is nearly finished and once the consultant has the draft, we will have a clearer timetable for further progress.

To plan for a Christmas event at the hall

It was decided to ask Suzanne Newman to play some carols, and to have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. It was also agreed to ask local groups whether they want to hold a stall at this event. The event working group will liaise with the Amenities Manager.

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting 2nd October 2023

Highways

To note the end of the loan of the Speed Indicator Device to Wargrave

This was noted and thanks received. Wargrave are now planning to purchase their own machine.

Full Council Meeting on 16th October 2023

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The green mapping of Charvil is currently being undertaken by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), and the results will be shared at a workshop on 16th November. Representatives of TVERC will come to visit the parish at some point. The clerk and Councillor Jones had a meeting with a representative of AECOM to discuss Design Codes. She asked a lot of questions to get a better understanding of Charvil and will recommend the panel that they approve our application. She also touched upon whether a housing needs assessment would be a good idea, as this would give us more influence on what is suitable for Charvil. As far as the assessments of the two sites are concerned, the Consultant should be able to come back with his thoughts either this week or next.

To hear feedback from a meeting with Ricky Josey regarding upgrading the East Park Farm playground

Councillors Sutcliffe, Bray and Walker met with the Amenities Manager and Ricky Josey on 11th October. He suggested the plot ought to be bigger, and squarer, to help get the area from out of the trees. Given that there is quite a lot of unused green space, he suggested that a small children's bike track, and perhaps a couple of goals with metal nets to encourage youngsters away from the goal mouths on the field. The playground should be accessible, cater for children up to the end of primary school age, and have a mixture of woodchip and wet pour surfaces. There are grants available, and it could be worth seeing if there is any S106 money available. The next step is for Councillors to go to visit other new playgrounds in the Borough to get an idea of what is out there, and to see whether planning permission is required. Ricky Josey is willing to provide details of fitters and providers that the Borough uses, and the likely cost would be between £75k to £100k.

To plan for a Christmas event at the hall

The date is set for Sunday 17th December at 5pm to 7pm. Suzanne Newman has agreed to play carols, and there will be drinks and mince pies. There will be a collection for Woodley Foodbank, and maybe a Christmas jumper competition or some such for children. There may also be a tree and the lights will be turned on. This will be a ticketed event with social media sign up.

To consider a Scout bat box proposal

The Council have been approached by the Scout group because they would like to undertake a follow-up project from last winter's successful bird box building project, by building bat boxes. They would like some funding for the materials, and some suggestions of suitable trees. If possible, they would like some help building them as well. The Council were willing to help with funding and will help to advertise the need for extra volunteers and have some ideas regarding suitable locations.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee on 6th November 2023

OPEN FORUM – Two residents attended regarding the Planning Application 231682, Proposal for two dwellings on 4, Old Bath Road.

The two residents were concerned that the revised plans did not go anywhere near providing the necessary details for a planning application because they were only indicative and were inconsistent with the information regarding ground levels. The diagram suggests that the new homes were to be built on the same level at the dwelling to the left (currently the proposed site is around 1.5 metres higher) but the description talks of retaining walls, suggesting that the proposed dwellings would still be higher. This would mean that they would still be adversely affecting the solar panels on the home next door, and the necessary root protection of existing trees would be compromised. They felt that the plan was overdevelopment, but they would support a smaller redevelopment of the site.

Highways

To hear feedback from Councillor Jones on the work he has done on the speed data for the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Jones explained that he had been collating the headline figures, and that one of the most relevant figures is the speed that 85% of people are doing rather than the average speed – if this is over the national speed limit, then there is a problem with speeding, as is the case on Old Bath Road and the A4. This is not the case on Park Lane – possibly because of the speed humps, but the figures suggest that there has been a huge increase in the level of traffic on Park Lane, that could be driven by the opening of the Elizabeth Line. It would be useful to have some up-to-date data from Waingels Road as this was last visited in 2018.

Environment

To note a report of a dog attack in the Country Park

It was reported by a runner that he was attacked by a loose dog in the Country Park – fortunately the dog only managed to bite his clothing, but he was concerned that if such an attack had happened to an elderly person or a child, the outcome may have been different. The dog was being walked by a dog walker with around six dogs on leads and two loose. There was a discussion about what could be done, and that it is probably something that needs to be dealt with at a national level, and the clerk was asked to write to Theresa May.

To note the Planning Consultant's report on the two sites included in the draft Local Plan, and to hear a report on a follow-up meeting with the consultant

Councillors Jones and Sutlieff, and the clerk had a call with Lee Searles regarding his site assessments of the two sites. He ran through all of the points, and the main defence of the two sites being that Charvil is not a sustainable location but if there is no five-year housing supply in place, then the tilted balance will be in favour of development, particularly as the sites have been included in the draft Local Plan. The Park Lane site is particularly hard to defend on most other grounds although archaeological surveys, wildlife, biodiversity, and the air quality issues at Twyford Crossroads are areas that could be mentioned in objections to this site – most will cause delays rather than stop development altogether. The site to the north has stronger grounds for defence, but most of these are not game changers either, but could influence how things are done. Unfortunately, the fact that Charvil is woefully short of amenities is not good enough grounds to prevent development. It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to share the results of this exercise. *Clerk's note: the submission of the outline application on the land west of Park Lane has meant public meetings have been arranged.*

Amenities Meeting on 13th November 2023

To hear an update regarding the proposals for the redevelopment of the play park at East Park Farm

Cllr Sutlieff briefed the committee on the latest quotes that had been received from two companies recommended by Ricky Josey of Wokingham Borough Council. The highest being in the region of £68,400 incl. VAT – this is for the supply and delivery of the equipment; it is expected that it would cost the same again for installation. Cllr Ryatt is exploring the costs of the groundwork. A rough estimate for the entire project would be in the region of £250,000. Cllr Sutlieff and members of the working group to visit other local parks that have been redeveloped and gain further information. Cllr Sutlieff and the Clerk will explore possible grants and funding and confirm whether planning permission is required.

To hear a complaint regarding dog waste on the sports pitches at East Park Farm

The Committee were informed that the football teams have to constantly remove dog waste from the pitches prior to play and that last weekend players witnessed dogs fouling on the area of the goal mouth, they have asked the Council to consider signage to discourage dogs being allowed without a lead on the field and for the person responsible for the dog(s) to pick up after them. The Councillors were disappointed to hear dog fouling was still an issue and would like social media posts issued to request people pick up after their dogs. There is already signage on the fields in various places. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the dog warden and ask if they could schedule a visit to the area to offer some advice and also to check the Keep Britain Tidy website to see if there are any helpful hints and tips on controlling dog waste. It was noted that many other sports grounds have banned dogs completely because of the health and safety risks to sports groups. Fencing off the pitches would be a significant investment but may need to be explored as part of future plans if all other options fail.

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Planning Matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

- 231695 Application for the proposed single-storey front extension with rooflights, garage conversion to create habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration at 41, Cheviot Drive
- 231261 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension at 51, Park View Drive North
- 232110 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear outbuilding at 25, Gingells Farm Road

The Council commented on these applications as follows:

- 231261 *Application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, single storey side extension, two storey rear extension plus changes to fenestration following demolition of existing detached garage at 20 Old Bath Road – the clerk was asked to respond as follows:*

Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application for the following reasons.

1 Overdevelopment. These extensions are very extensive, doubling the footprint of the original dwelling. Although the plot is large, such a large extension will have a negative impact on the neighbouring properties and will adversely affect the street scene which currently has quite an open feel, but this will bring this property very close to No.22, causing a terracing effect. This will be made worse by the raising of the roofline by a further metre.

2. Loss of light. Because the dwellings are staggered, such a large two storey extension to the rear will affect the amount of natural light entering the property at number 18.

3.Loss of privacy. The large rear extension, with lots of extra windows, will overlook the garden of number 18, affecting their privacy. Added to this, the extra window at the front of the building will look directly into the neighbour's bathroom, which is unacceptable.

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 land to the north of A4 New Bath Road, Twyford – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to add the following objections to those that they submitted in the original consultation period.

- 1. The site was omitted from both iterations of the draft Local Plan, because the site was deemed unsuitable, due to air quality concerns, being north of the A4 which is the natural boundary for Twyford, and so was seen as unsustainable. Although there are issues surrounding Wokingham Borough's five-year land supply, this remains unsuitable unsustainable, and contrary to the newly adopted Twyford neighbourhood plan.*
- 2. Traffic issues: there is still no acceptable tie-in with the roundabout that is planned for the entrance to the Bridge Farm development, and other entrances have been crudely added to ensure emergency routes, but will negatively impact National Cycle Route, as the proposed entrance expects motor vehicles to take priority, which is not the case at any other point on that stretch of the A4. Moreover, the general effect of the added roundabout, junctions and crossings is likely to cause tailbacks in all directions, including at the A321 roundabout at the busiest times of day.*
- 3. The Wargrave sewage treatment plant is already at full capacity – even now there are occasional sewage spills in the lowest lying points in Charvil, and there are concerns that each new development will exacerbate this. In terms of the site itself, the proximity of the Rivers Thames and Loddon, mean that sewage spills into the rivers are likely to increase, with the possibility of contamination of the green sites closest to the plant, plus the increase in unpleasant and unhealthy odour affecting the new dwellings.*
- 4. There are a lot of concerns around flooding, especially as some of the site is in Flood Zone 3, and the mitigation measures offered still seem far short of what is required to protect the wider area from being affected adversely by a development in this location. The likely victims of increased danger of flooding are residents of Loddon Drive and the lowest lying properties in Charvil.*

231682 Application for the proposed erection of 2 no. semi-detached three-bedroom dwellings with associated car port, parking and landscaping, following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings at 4, Old Bath Road – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council is not against the development of this site in principle, but would like to raise the following concerns regarding this application.

- 1.The applicant has not provided any diagrams to show how the proposed dwelling would look in relation to the neighbouring properties, but, because the ground level at No. 4 is around a metre higher than No.6, such a tall building would dominate the street scene. This would have the knock-on effect of compromising the light at No. 6, particularly regarding their solar panels and downstairs rooms.*
- 2.The height of the building and second floor windows will overlook the neighbouring properties and will compromise their privacy.*
- 3.The transport plan is misleading, in that it suggests there is a much better bus service than is the case. There is no Sunday or evening service, and the two buses an hour run about ten minutes apart, not on a 30-minute basis as suggested. Moreover, the plan also suggests that the cycle links are good, but evidence suggests that most people do not agree, judging by the high car dependency in Charvil. The walking times are also highly ambitious.*
- 4.The CIL calculations will need verification as all outbuildings have been included.*

231682 Application for the proposed erection of 2 no. semi-detached three-bedroom dwellings with associated car port, parking and landscaping, following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings at 4, Old Bath Road (revised plans)

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish would like to add to the comments already provided on the original application.

The revised drawings suggest that the proposed dwellings will be at the same level as the existing properties, but other parts of the application imply otherwise, such as the retaining wall. The lack of clarity on this point is concerning, as the current house is well over a metre higher than No.6, so the Council believes there is still an issue regarding blocking the light to the solar panels at No. 6 Old Bath Road and compromising the privacy of both this property and those in Lime Tree Close. The Council is also concerned that the height would be out of keeping, and that the site is being overdeveloped.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 230893 Application for the erection of a single storey rear extension to Lounge with composite cladding and roof lantern at 53 Park View Drive North
- 230113 Full application for the proposed erection of 1 no x 5 bedroom dwelling house following subdivision of the existing residential garden at Lakeside, Waingels Road
- 231557 Application for the proposed conversion of existing garage to create habitable accommodation plus changes to fenestration at 38, Gingells Farm Road
- 231695 Application for the proposed single-storey front extension with rooflights, garage conversion to create habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration at 41, Cheviot Drive
- 231512 Application for the proposed exterior of the dormer to be clad with cement board at Uplands, Park Lane
- 231695 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, single storey side extension, two storey rear extension plus changes to the fenestration following demolition of existing detached garage at 20, Old Bath Road

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

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Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2024		
08 January 2024		Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
22 January 2024		Full Council Meeting
05 February 2024		Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
19 February 2024		Amenities Committee Meeting
26 February 2024		Full Council Meeting
04 March 2024		Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
11 March 2024		Amenities Committee Meeting
18 March 2024		Full Council Meeting
08 April 2024		Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
15 April 2024		Amenities Committee Meeting
22 April 2024		Full Council Meeting
13 May 2024		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		
Pat Sutlieff	Chair of Council	07788 100935 chair@charvil.com
Rob Jones	Vice Chair of Council	Robjones@charvil.com
Lee Cripps	Councillor	07899 905240 leecripps@charvil.com
Jane Hartley	Chair of Amenities	07879 427350 janehartley@charvil.com
Matt Walker	Chair of Finance	07974 160846 mattwalker@charvil.com
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	07957 345652 narinderryatt@charvil.com
Isabelle Bray	Chair of Staffing	07535 696947 Isabellebray@charvil.com
Stephen Lucas	Councillor	stephenlucas@charvil.com
	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
Neil Durrant	Admin and Social Media Assistant	media@charvil.com

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Dear Residents,

As we approach the holiday season, I extend warm Season's Greetings to you all. It's an honour to serve as your Borough Councillor, and I'd like to provide you with a festive update.

Local Businesses and Economy

Our local businesses have shown resilience in the face of challenges. This festive season, let's unite to support our shops, restaurants, and services, contributing to the prosperity of our community. As the son of a former shopkeeper I know how tough things can be for small businesses so please do remember to support the local traders where you can.

Environmental Initiatives

I have continued my commitment to sustainability. The monthly Charvil Matters litter pick sessions have contributed positively to reducing the litter in our village this year. I am also pleased to be working with a number of students, supporting them to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh award by volunteering through Charvil Matters. It's great to see so many young people committed to reducing the litter problem and keeping the village clean. I would also like to personally thank all the volunteers who have come out to support these litter pick sessions. I love telling everyone that Charvil is the cleanest ward in Wokingham Borough. If you would like to join, please e-mail me on charvil matters@gmail.com. Our next community litter pick will be in January.

Community Events and Celebrations

Despite challenges, our community spirit has shone through various organised events. I have shared a few events which may be of interest below.

22nd December- FREE Festive Film Event at Wokingham Leisure Centre. 3 x films to get you in to the festive spirit, including:

- Miracle on 34th Street- 10am-12pm
- Elf- 2pm-4pm
- Deck the Halls 6pm-8pm

The event is open to all, whether attending with friends/family, alone, or for those just wanting to escape the cold for a few hours. Entry is completely free, but we welcome donations for local mental health charity, no.5. There will be a raffle with exciting prizes to be won- £1 per ticket, £3 per strip. FREE refreshments including; mince pies/shortbread/tea/coffee/hot chocolate.

Booking link below- places can be booked in advance or just turn up on the day: <https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/wokingham-leisure-centre/news/festive-film-event/>

Dry January Awareness Events

Cranstoun will be at Wokingham Leisure Centre and Loddon Valley Leisure Centre throughout January to provide information and advice to reduce alcohol intake, as well as providing info on the number of calories within alcoholic drinks.

Wokingham: 4th and 18th of January from 5pm-7pm

Loddon Valley: 11th and 25th of January from 5pm-7pm

Community Safety

Ensuring your safety is a top priority, In 2023, I have been out with Thames Valley Police in Charvil helping to crack down on speeding drivers. Speeding has been, and still is a concern in our village. Another issue that arose in 2023 is a rise in keyless car thefts in Charvil and the surrounding areas. I have personally brought this issue to the direct attention of senior individuals within the force, and look forward to collaborating with them to tackle this type of crime in 2024.

Boundary Changes

Across the country constituencies and wards have been analysed and assessed by the boundary commission. Charvil Ward will become Thames Ward which will be a three Councillor ward and include Sonning, Wargrave, Remenham and Charvil in one ward. This could be a great opportunity for more mixing and closer community work between these areas.

Looking Ahead:

As we head into 2024, I'm optimistic about the future. Together, we can build a resilient, inclusive, and thriving community. Thank you for your trust and support.

Wishing you a joyful, peaceful holiday and happy new year.

Warm regards,

Cllr Sam Akhtar, Borough Councillor for Charvil Ward
sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING REPORT

Here's a bright idea – there are ways you can make your house look occupied without it costing more!

Now is the ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness, you may be at an increased risk of burglary.

There are a number of free and low cost ways which could help reduce the chance of your home becoming a target:

- Close your curtains and blinds
- Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door, make sure you have double locked it
- Don't leave any valuables, gifts or presents on view and register them on www.immobilise.com. It's free and if they are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catching the offenders
- If you have gold or high value jewellery in your home during celebrations, please be aware this may be noticeable to criminals. Consider storing it offsite in a safety deposit box
- If you are away from home, don't advertise this on social media
- Visit a local retailer to pick up a low cost 24-hour segment timer. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone is home. (Using energy efficient light bulbs can help bring costs down for this)
- Make sure your post doesn't pile up
- Empty your bins regularly and don't leave any packaging in view
- Ask a neighbour to park on your drive if you are away
- Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. For more information about schemes in your area, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Sign up to Thames Valley Alerts today at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice
- Visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk for further crime reduction advice and you can also download our Home Security Guide

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 contact Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

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

ROLL-OUT OF NEW CHARVIL FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

As part of the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan, a sub-group compiled data on past floods, particularly the key ones in 2002 and 2014 and identified their controls, particularly triggers where preventative actions needed to be taken. Unfortunately, communications with both the Environment Agency and Wokingham Borough Council showed that we should be prepared for diminished support over previous floods when sandbags and pumps were provided. The EA now will not provide sandbags and WBC only holds a very limited stock. The villages temporary flood barrier was withdrawn in 2022 as it was deemed by the EA to take too long to assemble and would have limited effectiveness. Essentially, we should plan to 'be on our own', hence the need for us to have a response plan in place. That document has now been compiled and is available at <https://www.charvil.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CHARVIL-FLOOD-PLAN-v3-minus-contacts-Dec2023.pdf> .

The 'flood season' in Charvil generally occurs in the winter, particularly in late December through to late February, with February the riskiest month historically. The isolated properties in Loddon Drive and on Thames Drive are the first affected by rising floods : residents are known to be aware of the risks there and some have response plans of their own. The eastern parts of the main village of Charvil become first affected by external flooding at the 35m topographic contour (equivalent to a level of 3.4m on the Loddon measuring station. Reassuringly we have no historical record of any internal house flooding in the main part of the village, though it has come close on several occasions and rises to the critical 35m contour seem to be becoming more frequent, with climate change and upriver building probably contributing to this.

The Flood Response plan identifies triggers at which actions need to be taken, gives advice and contacts on acquiring preventative equipment and includes a Personal Flood Plan to be compiled by each house. We have also created a WhatsApp group so we can warn of rising flood waters and coordinate assistance such as moving furniture upstairs. Anyone from Charvil can join this WhatsApp Group at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKJrAMJG40eFqr85C7J0yb>, or can text me at 07884266309 and I will connect them. In addition to myself as Flood Warden, there are five street reps identified for the most low lying eastern streets in the village. Those in outlying properties such as Thames and Loddon Drives, should use the Environment Agencies own alerts, as these are set to these low lying areas (and are less appropriate to the village).

The Flood Response plan also gives contacts for the purchase of sandbags, inflatable aquasacs, and other equipment.

As the Parish Council does not have a storage facility for sandbags, responsibility now falls entirely on individual residents, who have to take their own decisions as to whether and what equipment they should buy in advance. Advice on the use of sandbags (which would have to be personally purchased in advance of an anticipated flood) now varies considerably, although they should if properly employed and in considerable numbers, slow the entry of water, allowing time for more effective actions to be taken, such as moving furniture upstairs. This does also depend on the nature of the property (detached/semi-detached), number of doors, air bricks etc. Where they have been used in the past in Charvil, between 30 and 100 sandbags have been deployed per house. This is therefore a difficult decision and one that will clearly vary between properties.

We have the main response roles identified but would like to hear from volunteers, who are willing to be pulled in to help, e.g. move furniture for senior or vulnerable residents, assist making drinks etc. in a response centre at the Village Hall. Please contact me or join the Whatsapp Group. Finally, if you see a blocked drain, please report it to me and I will put it on WBC's system (though it may take some time to action to be taken!).

Duncan Macgregor, Flood Warden (email: duncan@macgeology.co.uk)



Mr Ranju Khurana

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

Dr Anu Chadha

BDS (Lon) MFDSRCS (Edin)
MSc in Prosthetics (Lon)
GDC No: 79744

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CHARVIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: First Draft, Green Corridors, Design Codes and Solar Panels

After slower progress on the Charvil's Neighbourhood Plan over the summer as we waited for clarity on how plans may be impacted by Michael Gove's planning reforms (they have made Neighbourhood Plans more powerful) and the funding for the next phase was approved by the government body Locality, it is now full steam ahead on the next phases. We have completed a first draft of the plan including some proposed policies focused on the areas residents have highlighted; Traffic and Transport, Green space, Flooding, Housing and Community. We have also engaged a Planning Consultant to guide and assist us through this next phase of the project as we look to finalise the plan with policies that are conformable to planning law and enter the inspection and consultation phases of the project. Additionally, we have begun some exciting projects that will provide evidence and support to the plan.

The first exercise we have undertaken is with Thames Valley Environmental Records Center (TVERC) who we have commissioned to map out the green corridors across Charvil. These routes are essential in linking habitats and providing routes for animals to move across the countryside and thrive.



As part of this exercise a workshop was held with Rob Curtis of TVERC, joined by residents and Simon Bartlam of Wokingham Countryside Service, this session gave the opportunity to provide local knowledge, detail, and input. The maps are now being finalised and we look forward to sharing them with residents and using them to inform further development in the village. (Photo 1. Residents and Rob Curtis of TVERC mapping Charvil's green corridors.)

Additionally, we have engaged AECOM the design and engineering company to help us produce a Design Code for Charvil. A Design Code is a set of simple, concise, design requirements which set principles for new development in an area. It gives guidelines on what new housing developments should look like, what materials should be used and provides an overall vision. The process kicked off with a meeting with AECOM's consultants and members of the Neighbourhood Plan team discussing what we liked and valued in Charvil and what we don't like and would wish to



change, this included approaches to car parking, sustainability, drainage, building materials and extensions. There then followed a tour of the village in the cold December rain looking and taking photos of the various styles of building and identifying the various Character Areas, these are parts of the village which share a particular design style. We'll continue to work with AECOM over the coming months to complete this study as a key part of the local plan. (AECOM consultants and Neighbourhood Plan team meet to begin producing a Design Code for Charvil)

A further initiative that the Neighbourhood Plan is undertaking is to understand how much solar power the village currently generates from residents' roof top panels and how much potential there is remaining and how close Charvil can get to net zero electricity and how often. The first part of this will be identifying and counting solar panels already installed from satellite and drone photos ahead of calculating their generation capacity.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to move ahead and we're hoping to begin the consultation phase in the spring with submission of what is called Section 14. The Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity for residents to have their say on how the village develops. There's also a very large financial incentive for Charvil to have a plan, currently when a development is granted planning permission a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is paid by the developer to Wokingham Borough Council to provide supporting infrastructure, a portion of this money is paid to the Parish council. If there's no plan in place 15% of the CIL capped at 100 pounds per existing house is paid to the Parish Council. If a plan is in place, then the Parish Council gets 25% of the CIL uncapped, the difference can be substantial.

CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA

In February 2023, Charvil Parish Council relaunched our social media presence, with new-look Facebook and Instagram accounts. Our aim is to provide residents with up-to-date information on local issues, news and events, as they happen, and to reach those members of our community who may be unaware of the work the Parish Council does.

We now have a YouTube channel too, which features videos including the role of Parish Councillors, our Coronation Party held earlier in the year, and how we spend the Parish Precept part of your Council Tax.

This year, we've posted almost 500 times, including covering the refurbishment of the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion at East Park Farm, with weekly update photos. We've shared information about our local community groups, youth groups and sports facilities, as well as providing information on everything from local roadworks to cost-of-living support, and from graffiti removal to the refurbishment of our Parish Noticeboards and Water Pump.

There have been a number of events since the summer, which we've publicised online too. These have included the re-opening ceremony at the Pavilion, acorn planting around Chiltern Drive and Vale View, the expansion of our Community Orchard with twelve new trees, and our Christmas in Charvil celebration.

Most recently, we've been able to share up-to-the-minute information about the sinkhole that appeared in the East Park Farm carpark and provide residents with information about the proposed development of 75 homes off Park Lane, including holding two public meetings to hear your views.

2024 looks like it'll be an exciting year, with the redesign and relaunch of our website, giving it the feel of a virtual community hub, where you'll be able to find out all about Charvil, local activities, events and the work of the Parish Council. There are even plans to install WiFi at the Village Hall, making it the perfect venue for both community and business meetings.

We are continuously looking at ways to improve communication between residents and your Parish Council, including the Annual Parish Meeting which is held in May, and how the format of this can be changed to make it more inclusive, and to encourage residents to share your views with us.

You can find all of our social media & website links by visiting

<https://linktr.ee/charvil>

or by scanning the QR code or searching for us on social media.



We'd love to hear your views on our digital presence, which includes our website & social media. You can send any ideas or suggestions you have about our content to Media@charvil.com or by sending us a message through our social media accounts.



Social Media



@CharvilParishCouncil



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@Charvil



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CATERPILLAR CLUB

Caterpillar Club, run by volunteers, continues to thrive and provides a space where friendships and connections are made. We welcome parents, grandparents 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 each additional child. If you have pre-school age children and are free on Wednesday mornings do just turn up and join us – no booking required. The spring term starts on 10th January 2023. Any updates or for further information find us on www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub.

1ST CHARVIL SCOUTS

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,

As dark nights set in various groups have carried out Hikes around the area, making good use of their head torches and winter clothes. Groups have been carrying out environmental and science activities, showing how science can help with environmental problems locally.

In addition, our scouts and the Parish council have once again teamed up to do our bit for the local community. This time we got together to produce some Bat boxes to give a safe place for our local Bat community to move into.

I want to say a big thank you to all the adults that gave up their evening to help the scouts achieve this project, without the adult volunteers and Leaders, activities like this cannot happen and the scouts were able to experience new challenges(and power tools !).

Here is a few of the comments from the Scouts

Edward Jones—I've made bird boxes before but making bat-boxes was so much fun. I loved measuring the dimensions, using a saw, drill and screwdriver. I was really pleased with the outcome and hope a bat likes it and uses it as a new house. I would definitely do it again.

Isaiah Mwape-Kangwa—Making the bat box was really fun as we got to use saws and screwdrivers. Making the bat boxes is really helpful to the bats because it is giving them shelter rather than sleeping outdoors in the freezing cold. Constructing some of the bits and pieces was quite challenging but I got through it and felt good to have built a DIY bat box Overall it was a really enjoyable experience and working with my other peers and adults ensured that my bat box was in top quality. I really did enjoy making the bat box and it is something. I would like to do again.



Harry Hanks—At Scouts this week, I had a fun time because we practised many skills in terms of DIY e.g. we practised sawing, drilling and many more. We made bat boxes out of wood and screws with an intricate plan to follow. It was great fun and I would definitely like to do it again!!

Lucas Weakford—On Wednesday the 6th of December the Charvil scouts group spent the evening making bat boxes. To make the bat boxes we required wood, a saw, a drill, and a hammer drill. First of all we had to saw the wood into the correct sizes, then nailed them together to make the boxes using the power tools. Once they were put together there was a big enough gap for the bats to enter (only just mind). When we had finished we wrote our names on the boxes and we'll be putting them up soon.

Aleka Royle—This was so much fun, I got to use tools like my dad has! And we have made a great box for the Bats, I hope I get to see them using them in the future.

Faye Royle—This was interesting to do, and we also learnt the differences between the design of these boxes over the ones we made for the Birds last year. I really like the Scout badges that we put on too.

A Big Thank You to Mr D Voss and DHL for organising the Scout emblems with use of a 3D printer, to help us both locate and identify the boxes in years to come. And of course, the Parish council for helping fund the materials needed for this activity.

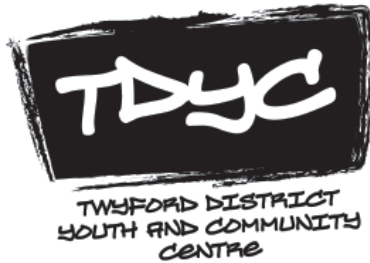
We hope to fit the boxes and design an little bat box map so that local people can walk and find the boxes and report to us if they see any activity or poop outside the boxes.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful Christmas with family and hopefully 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 charvilscout@gmail.com

We are however always recruiting for new leaders, especially at the moment, we are desperately in need of a Beaver, Cub & Scout leaders, and volunteers to help, we would of course be very grateful if anyone would have the time to help and join our group to help with the various groups. We are a large group with lots of support for new helpers and leaders.

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





Do you have a rapport with Young People? Happy to get stuck into a game of basketball whilst at the same time encouraging someone struggling with their confidence? Then we'd love to hear from you!

Job Title: Youth Worker

Location: Twyford District Youth & Community Centre Building and Local areas during street-based youth work when required.

Salary: £12.50 per hour.

Contract: Hours worked to be invoiced monthly on a contractual/self-employed basis

Days/Hours Required to Work: a combination of:-

- ☐ Monday Evenings: 6.15pm-9.15pm
- ☐ Wednesday Evenings: 6.45pm – 9.30pm
- ☐ Friday Evenings: 7.15pm – 8.45pm

Start Date: Immediately

Please respond by email to julie.barnes@tdyc.co.uk explaining why you would be a good fit for the role and any relevant experience.

Applications close on Fri Jan 5th.

How about a little teaser during a coffee break? You'll find the answers at the bottom of the last page:



QUIZ:

- 1) How many clocks are there on the Windsor Castle estate?
- 2) The Beatles started their first UK tour in which Berkshire town?
- 3) Reading is the proud home to the first of which restaurant in the UK?
- 4) Which Dragon is from Maidenhead?
- 5) The first text message was sent in Reading but what did it say?
- 6) How many British prime ministers have attended Eton College?
- 7) Bricks made in Bracknell were used to rebuild which famous building?
- 8) Which film did Reading's own Kate Winslet win an Oscar for?

TWYFORD & RUSCOMBE FLORAL ART CLUB

Twyford & Ruscombe Floral Art Club meet on the first Thursday of the month (not August) at Charvil Village Hall, from 7.30-9.30pm.

Each month we invite an NAFAS demonstrator to give us 5 or 6 ideas usually based on a theme suited to the time of year. As they work on each piece, they give us hints and tips on how to achieve good displays, prepare the flowers, details of what each flower is etc.

Everyone is welcome and there is free entrance to anyone who mentions the Charvil Village News.

CHARVIL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We are a friendly group who play on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm and/or Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 9pm indoors from September to April at Charvil Village Hall, RG10 9TR. We would

welcome new members especially on a Wednesday evening.

If you fancy 2 hours of gentle exercise and some friendly chat, please come along to have a go (only clean flat shoes required), or ring Gerry Thorne on 0118 969 4022 or 0777 0787791 for further details.



THE PROJECT SINGERS

The singers have been working on classic pop songs including Fields of gold, True colors, Holding out for a hero and My heart will go on for a concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on November 18th. Joining us for the performance were the Crosfields Senior Singers. It was a great evening with all the singers combining at the end to sing Abba's 'Thank you for the music'. The term ended with lots of carol singing in the area which we always enjoy! The spring term's project is 'Let us entertain you!' - songs from films and musicals. We will be working towards a concert on March 24th. We are also planning to take part in one or two other events during the term. We have a few spaces so if anyone would like to join us, please contact the choir's Musical Director, Suzanne Newman, on 0118 9340589 / suzanneynewman@btinternet.com. We have a section for girls between the ages of 9 & 18 who rehearse on Sundays between 6.15 and 7.45pm. We also have a section for ladies who rehearse on Mondays between 8.00 and 9.30pm.

Other activities you may be interested in:

The Greatest Showman

Saturday 24th February - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Charvil Village Hall

Fun singing afternoon for female voices led by music teacher and choir director Suzanne Newman

We will be working on a medley of songs from The Greatest Showman arranged for 2-part choir

Songs include The greatest show, A million dreams, This is me and Come alive

£12 which includes music and light refreshments

Revolting children wanted for a fun singing and drama workshop!

Saturday 2nd March 2024 - 2:00pm to 5:15pm

Charvil Village Hall

Led by Suzanne Newman and PJ Barnes

We are looking for children between the ages of 9 and 18 to join us to work on a selection of songs from Matilda the Musical.

We will end the session with an informal performance.

There are 20 places available - £20 per person

For an application form for either of the above activities, please contact Suzanne by email to suzanneynewman@btinternet.com





Norwegian Friendship Exchange with the Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers



It was in 2013 the Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers decided it would be nice to establish contact with another group of spinners weavers and dyers in another country. Our Member, Helene Hamblin was given the challenge to source a group from Norway and so she put an advert for a friendship group in "Norsk Husflid" magazine, which is the main publication for crafters in Norway. We were contacted by "Bærum Husflidslag" from Akershus, a small municipality outside Oslo.

In 2014 we invited the Norwegians to visit us in Berkshire and stay with members of our Guild. A craft inspired programme was planned for the visit and hostesses, drivers and cooks went into action to make this a success. And a success it was, with much bonding over common interests and a promise of a return visit to Norway for our group.

So, apart for a break, due to health and travel restrictions during the Covid Pandemic, we have entertained, or been entertained by our Norwegian Friendship group every two years. This year we were excited to receive 'the Norwegians', after a 6-year break. Jackie was one of the hostesses who received two guests. She described it like this:

What an interesting, fun weekend we had with our Norwegian guests. My concerns about language were completely unfounded - both my guests spoke excellent English. I had offered to have two guests, thinking that if there was a language problem, at least they could chat to each other! But no, we had some wonderful conversations over breakfast- from food and families, to politics and education.

Both were very easy guests, fitting into our home and happy to help themselves to tea. Hosting involved some driving to collect our visitors and take them to a meeting point, or venue. I took them to the tours of the Gin factory, which I had never been to before, and the Whitchurch Silk Mill. I had been to the mill before, but never had a tour, so this was a bonus, and the lunch was great. Our Norwegian visitors love to take a trip to Alexandra Palace for the Knitting and Stitching show, which several of our Guild members enjoyed as well.



On their final evening with us we had a gathering of the Guild members with a shared show-and-tell and mini workshops of different crafts, both English and Norwegian based. I have certainly made new friends and am looking forward to a trip to Norway in a year or two.



Sarah Rose was one of those lucky enough to visit our Norwegian friendship group for our last visit in 2018. She said she was a little unsure what to expect, so it was with excitement that she met her fellow travellers for the flight to Oslo. She stayed with Cecilie, who welcomed her with delicious homemade almond cake, a traditional Norwegian recipe.

They spent a quiet first night eating, drinking tea and getting to know each other, before an extensive programme of activities, including Ullenhov Farm, a wonderful historical farm with an amazing personal collection of “ladies” items and objects that the owner had spent a lifetime rescuing and repairing and a silk weaving factory. The open day at the Norwegian Guild’s headquarters gave them all the opportunity to see many of the varied crafts enjoyed there, the beautiful handmade national costumes and braids as well picking up a couple of souvenirs. The traditional shrimp supper followed by delicious ice cream cake later that evening was a wonderful way to spend the last night with their hosts. The “show and tell” finale, which apparently, we introduced to our Norwegian friends was a great way to showcase the variety of crafts they enjoyed.

We now have established firm friendships with our Norwegian group and take part in exchanges every two years. In between we meet up on neutral ground at a venue sourced by members. It is fair to say that both groups of crafters have gained from these exchanges. We learn from each other and share knowledge, culture and expertise and most of all, we have loads of laughter and fun!

TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Twyford and Ruscombe Horticultural Association (TRHA) has made a splendid comeback after a difficult couple of years. Membership increased in 2023 and all activities were well supported, particularly the Shows where the many visitors were treated to some impressive exhibits.

TRHA are looking forward to welcoming everybody to the AGM on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at St Thomas More Church Rooms in Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, RG10 9EL, where they will be discussing the future over a glass of wine. The meeting will start at 8.0 pm and there are plenty of parking spaces. Any suggestions for the Shows, or general running of the Association is always welcome. The Association could not function without its dedicated volunteers and Member support.

Planning for the 2024 Shows is already well advanced. The Shows will have a new look but will still be “Open” to all exhibitors. TRHA hope that all gardeners will be planning for the new season with this in mind.

The Store, which closed for the winter break, will reopen on 4th February 2024, for Members to purchase horticultural supplies, get advice, or just have a friendly chat. You can apply for Membership at the Store in Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, RG10 9JA. It opens on Sunday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am, or you can email Jenny Wager at trhamembership@gmail.com. Visit the website at www.trha.org.uk for details of all activities.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WOKINGHAM

The team at Charvil Parish Hall were particularly welcoming when we approached them about setting up a new Love to Move Session. Since it began late in 2022 we have been having a great time in the hall, here's what some of our group said.

"I had such fun this afternoon. Great tunes, great to keep warm- both my heart and body!" "Adele, Sue and Rachael make these sessions so enjoyable, there is a real party atmosphere which Dad thoroughly enjoys".

Love to Move is a recognised programme of easy-to-follow seated exercises, mostly to music which are suitable for people living with dementia. There is a very firm emphasis on having fun with people in a similar situation to your own. Everyone is guaranteed an exceptionally warm welcome over coffee and biscuits which sets us up for the exercise. Carers, family and friends are actively encouraged to join in.

There is plenty of space for more attendees so please do contact us if you fancy joining us for a free trial session.

Dementia friendly Wokingham is a new initiative delivered by Age U.K. Berkshire and funded by Wokingham Borough Council. We are a group of individuals, organisations and charities who share a deep passion for making sure people living with dementia feel welcomed, safe, understood and valued when they are out and about in our community. We reach out to local businesses and families to help educate and break down the misconceptions that exist. A large part of our work is to introduce new Dementia friendly activities across the Borough, particularly away from the town centres which can sometimes be busy and overwhelming.

Dementia Friendly Wokingham has other activities across the borough such as cafés and maintenance cognitive stimulation sessions to keep the brain active and local walks to keep the body active.

We are actively seeking new members from across our community, if you are interested in hearing more about how to help, please take a look at our website or contact Adele for more information.

Website:

www.dementiafriendlywokingham.co.uk

Email address:

DementiaWokingham@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk

Telephone: 07759124067



CHARVIL ART GROUP

At Charvil Art Group we have just finished our Autumn Term. We are a small friendly group, who meet weekly, each Wednesday at 7:30 at Charvil Village Hall.



As we meet as a 'club' rather than as a 'class', it means that we have members with a wide range of interests and abilities. People enjoy following the suggested weekly topics, as well as developing their own styles or trying out new approaches and mediums when there is a workshop/tutor evening.

We also had a very interesting workshop last term, where we experimented painting on paper held as a 'tube', using this as an aid to composition. It sounds strange, and maybe a bit hard to imagine (?), but it was very unusual and certainly thought provoking. New one to all of us I think, and great fun!

Our Annual Exhibition was held in November. It was very successful, and well attended. Many thanks to all who supported the Group, both by visiting the exhibition and/or by displaying their artworks. It certainly showed the wide variety of styles and subjects which our members cover. So there should have been something for everyone!

Next term we have another exciting Programme arranged, starting with a Tutor evening on 17th January, exploring the medium of watercolour pencils.

If you are interested in Art and would like to see what we are about, please do feel free to drop in one Wednesday evening from 19:30 onwards. Or contact our Membership Secretary, Chris, via our website -

Charvilartgroup.co.uk.

Best wishes for the New Year!

CHARVIL WINE CIRCLE

Fancy trying some new wines?

Why not come along and join us for one of our tasting evenings.

We are a friendly group of enthusiasts who meet on the 4th Thursday of most months in Charvil Village Hall at 7:45pm.

Interested and want to find out more contact Pam on 07884 485213.



MOTION IS A LOTION FOR THE ARTHRITIC JOINTS!

By Imran Haq MCSP HCPC Clinical Lead Physiotherapist, Independent Prescriber, Injection Therapist at Physiocare Twyford.



Despite common beliefs, exercise is beneficial for osteoarthritis; however, it's understandable that pain can act as a significant deterrent. Many patients often express giving up activities like gardening or running, believing they are detrimental to their knees. However, exercising is unlikely to cause joint wear and tear. In fact, a healthy knee benefits from regular exercise, including activities like running. Even if arthritis develops, exercising is pivotal in preventing a decline.

It's a paradoxical situation. Knee pain leads to reduced activity, resulting in stiffness and weakened muscles, making exercise more challenging. Yet, in numerous cases, engaging in exercise can ultimately alleviate knee discomfort. Early intervention is advantageous, and if high-impact exercises like running worsen symptoms, transitioning to joint-friendly activities such as cycling is recommended. This advice extends beyond the knees to encompass upper limb joints and the spine's small joints. Any exercise promoting range of motion and strengthening joint-supporting muscles assists in managing arthritis and maintaining an active lifestyle.

Physiotherapy is vital and serves various purposes. A comprehensive joint assessment determines stiffness and identifies exercises to restore proper mobility. Optimal muscle strength is crucial, particularly in thigh, hip, and trunk muscles for lower limb joint support. Additionally, balance exercises prevent falls and minor injuries like joint sprains.

Medication cannot reverse or slow down the progression of arthritis. While anti-inflammatories or steroid injections can help during severe flare-ups, supplements like chondroitin and glucosamine, though present in healthy cartilage, lack evidence of effectively alleviating symptoms. Current guidelines advise against their use.

Nevertheless, advancements in arthritis treatments have emerged, such as Hyaluronic acid, Hydrogel (Arthrosamid), and Platelet-rich Plasma injections. Hyaluronic acid and PRP injections could offer pain relief for up to six months, whereas a single injection of Arthrosamid may provide relief for up to three years.

If you're unsure about your requirements, seeking guidance from a Physiotherapist to discuss your specific needs and identify the most suitable regimen is advisable.



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INNER WHEEL – CANAPÉS AND CAKES

Ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh rose to the challenge of making and serving hundreds of canapes at the Preview Evening of the Rotary Charity Art & Craft Fair, held recently at Leighton Park School.



Club members also ran the very popular Art Café, providing refreshments to visitors to the Art Fair which was raising funds for 'Feeding Communities'. The money raised by Inner Wheel from the Art Café will go to its main charity this special centenary year, The Cowshed, a local charity which provides support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis.

At our September club meeting our Club President was able to present a cheque for £4,350 to a representative of Berkshire Women's Aid, for whom we have fund raised and provided toys, household goods, toiletries and support in many ways during the last year.



The Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh meets at Sonning Golf Club on the third Thursday evening of every month and welcomes new members to join in the fun, take part in activities, raise funds for charity and support the local community.

This is a special year as Inner Wheel, which was founded in the UK and is now a worldwide organisation, is celebrating its centenary.

For more information: <https://www.innerwheelrme.org> or iwcrme@gmail.com

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Answer - 450
- 2) Answer - Slough
- 3) Answer - Little Chef
- 4) Answer - Peter Jones
- 5) Answer - Merry Christmas
- 6) Answer - 20
- 7) Answer - 10 Downing Street
- 8) Answer - The Reader





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