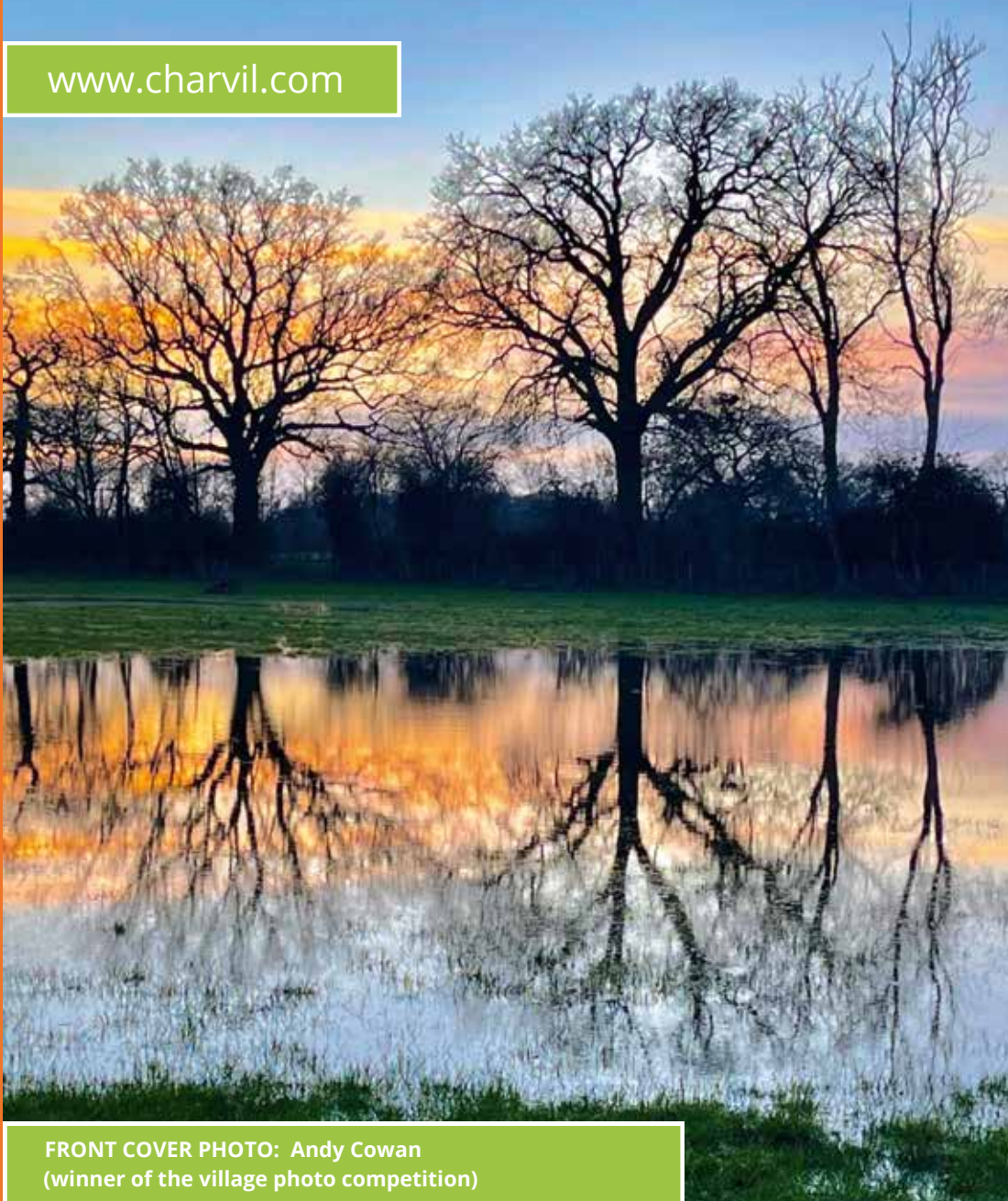


Charvil Village News

Spring 2024



www.charvil.com



FRONT COVER PHOTO: Andy Cowan
(winner of the village photo competition)



www.thebmgc.com

10% off your first order when you quote Ref: BMGC-WF

- PVC banners
- Roller banners
- Posters
- Point of sale
- Shop Signage
- Window graphics
- Exhibition systems
- Vehicle livery
- Signage for commerce
- Corporate branding
- Bespoke wall coverings
- Graphic design
- Web design and hosting
- Installation services

For cost effective, locally produced, quality graphics

call us on **0118 934 5016**

The Homestead, Park Lane, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TR
email: sales@thebmgc.com

Blue Moose are proud to be
associated with Charvil Village News



EDITORS INTRODUCTION

After what seems an eternity of wet, windy and grey weather bringing a miserable start to 2024, it appears Spring is finally here, bringing with it some much-needed dry, mild and even sunny weather at times. The rain (and sometimes freezing temperatures) over the winter months has played havoc with our play-parks, sports and recreation activities, with football and tennis regularly cancelled and the walkways around Charvil Lakes turned into a muddy quagmire. Hopefully the drier weather is here to stay and Charvil residents can again make the most of the lovely facilities on our doorstep.

Congratulations to Andy Cowan, winner of the village photo competition, whose beautiful picture we are pleased to include as this issue's front cover.

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.

Wishing you a Happy Easter and hopefully a warm and dry Spring ahead – I hope you enjoy this latest issue of Charvil Village News.

Amanda Burton

Physiotherapy

at Twyford & Wargrave GP Surgeries

Private appointments available

Registered with all major healthcare providers

Book online at **www.fitandable.co.uk**

or call **01189340926**

For more information email info@fitandable.co.uk

Fit & Able

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Hello everyone!

With a cold and very wet winter behind us, we are looking forward to Spring and a bit of sunshine at last. The daffodils are out and brightening up the village with their cheerful display, undeterred by the extreme rainfall and floods of recent months.

The Council's thanks go to Duncan McGregor (our local flood warden) and his helpers for setting up a WhatsApp group to keep residents informed of flood dangers. Duncan has also been the principal author of the Charvil Flood Plan, now available on the Parish Council website.

The Council has also developed an emergency plan to cover any sort of emergency event occurring in our vicinity, eg a major road crash or railway incident. Our thanks go to Media Assistant, Neil Durrant and Assistant Clerk, Amanda Burton for their work on this.

The continuing big issue for us all is the sinkhole in the EPF car park. Despite appearances, things are actually happening behind the scenes! We have come to an agreement with Wokingham BC concerning funding issues and arrangements for further investigations are in hand. We cannot actually fill in the hole until there has been a thorough assessment of the current hole and any others that may be lurking under the car park surface or elsewhere in the vicinity. We do appreciate the difficulties caused by the inaccessibility of the car park, especially with regards to the school and for footballers at the weekends, and we are proceeding as fast as we are able, in partnership with Wokingham BC, to deal with this issue. We will keep residents informed of any developments via our media posts. In the meantime, I'd like to ask people to avoid using their cars to access the area affected. If car use is unavoidable, please park with consideration for pedestrians (ie don't block the one and only pavement on that part of Park Lane) and for nearby residents in the Hawthorns and EPF Drive, don't block entrances or restrict visibility by parking too close or directly opposite to them. The Village Hall car park has been made available for use and is only a short walk away.

We welcomed a new Councillor in February: Katrin Harding has filled one vacancy, and we are sure that she will be a great asset to our team. However, we are still one Councillor short of a full complement, so if you would like to know more about joining us, please feel free to have an informal chat with any of our existing Councillors or contact our Clerk, Miranda Parker by emailing clerk@charvil.com.

Do come along to our **Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd** from 7.30pm to find out about the Council's past activities and future plans. The format is being changed this year to make it easier for residents to take part and to showcase some of the activities that take place in our buildings. There will be refreshments available and a **free raffle** for all attendees. We would appreciate your feedback after the event.

I hope the Easter break brings good weather and a relaxing time for you all.

Pat Sutlieff

Edited Extracts from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meeting held on 20th November 2023

Open Forum

The Media Assistant, one journalist, one resident and the flood warden attended. The flood warden presented an introduction to the flood plan that was to be discussed later in the meeting, explaining that it only covered the main part of the village because the residents of Thames Drive, which is most prone to flooding, have their own plan already in place. He explained at what water level, the area needs to become concerned, because the Environment Agency warnings are set to trigger when Thames Drive should be concerned (flood alert level), rather than the rest of the village, who should only become concerned when the warning reaches "flood warning" level. At the severe flood warning level, this would be a serious concern for Charvil properties, but has rarely been triggered. The key figure is the water reaching 34.5 Metres above sea level and is where the Thames and Lodon form one river. He emphasised one of the decisions to be taken by the Council is whether to commit to helping with sandbags as WBC has so few. He completed his presentation and left at 8.30pm.

To note the recommendations of the Wokingham Renumeration Panel and to decide whether to accept the principle of offering Councillors the opportunity to claim an allowance, and if so, to decide what the upper limit of this allowance should be

It was resolved that the Parish should accept the recommendation in full, and that this should be available for any Councillor wishing to take advantage of it after the election in May, which was passed unanimously. It was noted that Councillors do not have to accept the allowance, and that if they do it is a taxable benefit.

To consider and approve the Flood Plan for Charvil

The flood warden had circulated the plan that he has been working on for some time alongside the Parish Council, the Borough Council, and the Environment Agency. As he had intimated in the Open Forum that it would not be practicable for it to store enough for the homes that might need them, the Council decided that this was not something it could do, despite the Borough only having limited supplies. Instead, the information as to where residents could get them should be promoted. Apart from the practicalities around opening the Village Hall for affected householders, there were no objections to the plan, which was approved, and it was agreed to give the flood warden a vote of thanks for his work on this document, which will, once signed off by the Borough and Environment Agency, be accessible on the website.

To hear feedback from the green mapping exercise

Councillor Jones reported that a group of Councillors, interested residents and Simon Bartlam from the Wokingham Countryside Service met with a representative of Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), and were given a series of maps that they used local knowledge to add missing information from the maps. The TVERC have now gone away with the maps and will produce updated maps and a report. This will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

To Hear Feedback from the Public Meetings

The Council held two meetings to inform residents of the conclusions the planning consultant employed by the parish council to see what hope there was of defending the two sites included in the draft Local Plan, and in particular, the land west of Park Lane as this is now subject to an outline planning application. Councillor Jones had prepared a presentation on this and on effective ways of commenting on applications. Seventeen residents attended the first meeting, and nine the second. A reasonable discussion was had at both, and it appears the meetings have had an effect on the way residents have been commenting on the application since. The presentation on this will be shared on the website and Facebook for residents who could not attend the meetings to benefit from the feedback.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The plan is moving forward with the Consultant on board. He has reviewed the first draft and will draft policies on our behalf. He has identified areas where we lack evidence. We have been in touch with AECOM and are arranging a meeting in the village with them and the consultant. There is concern over how small the Neighbourhood Plan group has become, which is not an issue at this stage, but will require more once the time comes to consult again. The aim is to reach the Article 14 stage by March 2024.

Drain & Able

Independent Drainage Service

- All Blockages Attended To With No Call Out Charge
- CCTV Drainage Surveys • No Nonsense Approach
- Service Contracts/Planned Preventative Maintenance
- Health & Safety Accredited • No Subcontractors
- Public Liability Insurance
- Qualified Uniformed Engineers in Livered Vehicles



**HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED**

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

GUARANTEED ARRIVAL

**ALL TELEPHONE CALLS
ANSWERED PERSONALLY**

CALL ANYTIME ON 0118 957 6244 OR 07795 598207

www.drainandable.co.uk

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



**City &
Guilds**



**TRUST
MARK**
Government Endorsed Standard

To hear feedback on the BMX track idea

The clerk met with Simon Bartlam of the countryside service, and a resident who had brought up the idea, and we talked about what is possible, and what the dangers are. We also talked about a possible location, and all agreed that the most sensible place for such a thing would be near the kickabout area behind Vale View. The Countryside service would be open to allowing the Parish Council to put something in there but could offer no financial or practical support. The clerk has also spoken to Wargrave and Earley Councils, who both have such tracks, and they are both hugely popular, but are also high maintenance. Both agreed that cutting corners in the design and build stage is a false economy, and that the Council need to be prepared to check the facility regularly.

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 27th November 2023

Open Forum

Four residents, the planning consultant for Application 232704, and the assistant clerk attended.

The planning consultant then ran through some of the objections that had already been posted on the Wokingham planning portal. She suggested that Charvil was not being treated unfairly because all limited development locations were having to take more homes than in the last Local Plan period, and it was thirty years since Charvil last had a major development. She also stated that the site had been included in both drafts of the Local Plan, and so was clearly regarded as a suitable site by the Borough.

Much has been written about the failure to provide the allotments that were part of the plan for 25 dwellings, but these were withdrawn before that application had been determined because no-one seemed to want them.

There had been issues raised about the effect on the sewerage, and she said that Thames Water would address this.

Some people had suggested that the traffic surveys were done during Covid, but they were done in June 2022.

Others had complained that a crossing on Park Lane was not part of the plan and said this was because there is no suitable location but there would be a pavement on both sides of the road.

Regarding the sinkhole, there is no evidence to suggest development was anything to do with this, but when asked, she did admit that the surveys of the site had not investigated this possibility, and that it may now be necessary to do an extensive ground survey of the site.

She said she understood people's concerns about the lack of GPs and dentists, but this is not something the developers have any control over, and she would happily lobby for their CIL to be spent locally.

To consider Planning Application Number 232704, Outline application for the proposed erection of up to 75 dwellings with only access to be considered via Park Lane. All other matters (with appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale to be reserved) on land west of Park Lane, Charvil

Councillor Jones presented some slides on the geology of Park Lane and explained that the wider area is prone to sinkholes due to the mix of Lambeth Clay and chalk. Surface water tends to look for ways to go through the soil, and where there is disturbance, this can lead to fault lines to the chalk, which can then cause sinkholes. The hole in the car park is the third such hole in a line going across from the application site to the playing fields, and it would be wise to see if sinkholes could appear on the development site. This would not be a reason to refuse development on the site, but the measures that may need to be taken can also cause a raft of problems. He then referenced a similar site in Shiplake that remains unbuilt because the solutions to the sinkhole issues would lead to other unacceptable impacts.

In addition, there is a significant likelihood that the suggested SUDS would not work because the water table is so high at the bottom of the site, where they are proposed to go. Councillor Cripps asked whether the HGVs could cause the sinkholes, and Councillor Jones thought this unlikely.

Other issues apart from the sinkhole issue were then raised. The Council accept that homes are necessary, but they need to be the right homes in the right places, and this is not the right place. The level of amenity is poor, and the site is unsustainable in that it will be largely car dependent like the rest of the village. As it is, Charvil already has high car dependency, and this will only add to the already over-burdened local road network, exacerbating the air quality issues in Twyford, and the long queues over Sonning Bridge. There are also inaccuracies around the bus service – there is no Sunday service, and the two buses each hour come within minutes of each other, so in effect it is an hourly service during the day.

The traffic survey conducted by the applicant was conducted in 2022, but our own survey from this summer shows a significant increase in traffic at peak times, possibly due to the Elizabeth Line making Twyford a more popular station from which to travel to London. The walking time to the station is also rather optimistic as it takes an adult walking briskly 35 minutes.

The primary school is very close to the site, but is already full, so any school-age children would not be able to get a place, and would have to be driven to other schools – as time goes on, while the children from this development would get places, children in other parts of the village would have to be driven elsewhere – either way, extra car journeys for school traffic would be generated as a result of the extra dwellings.

The closest secondary school is not within catchment, but instead, children would have to negotiate crossing two busy main roads before accessing the route to school – this results in parents driving their children at least part of the way to school – so the extra journeys generated by the development will likely be much higher than estimated in the plan.

Councillor Heath pointed out that the reason the village has not had any major development in recent years was because it is a Limited Development Location – and the last large development was again because the Borough could not show a five-year housing supply.

Councillor Ryatt stated that Park Lane was already at a standstill in the morning, and Councillor Sutlieff was concerned that although the accident data does not show it, the mini roundabout at the end of Park Lane is hazardous.

As far as the application itself is concerned, the issue to be determined at this stage is the access road. This is between the entrance and exit of the primary school, but because the exit is to the left of the access road, all traffic will have to drive past the new access, which is potentially dangerous.

Because of the lack of a pavement on the school side of the road from the East Park Farm roundabout, children will have to cross close to this new road, so with all the extra hazards and lack of a crossing, the children walking to school will be severely impacted. A crossing is necessary but has been expressly excluded from this plan.

The Borough Councillor has asked whether the plan could be paused while geological checks are made.

To consider and approve appropriate action and costs that have arisen, or are likely to arise from the sinkhole at East Park Farm

The clerk gave an update, that the car park had been surveyed and that the result of this would be sent to Wokingham, but there is no guarantee that this would be shared with the Parish automatically.

There was discussion around whether the Council should survey the tennis courts as well, and this would be decided upon at a later date, but there may be a need to seek legal advice.

Full Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023

To consider S137 grant applications from Me2Club, Daisy's Dream and Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre.

It was resolved to give each group £465 each.

To decide on a final list for five-year plan items

The list needs prioritising but this cannot be done until the issues around the sinkhole are resolved. However, in no particular order, the plan includes Village Hall car park resurfacing; Tennis Court fencing; BMX track; outdoor gym; setting up a fund for purchasing land if the opportunity arises; Renovation of the East Park Farm Playground; modernising the St. Patrick's Recreation Ground; Pre-school; Community Café; jogging track; and dog free sensory area.

To approve any expenditure likely to be incurred around the sinkhole, and to provide an update as to any progress

The clerk explained that the Borough Council insist that the responsibility for repairs to the car park lies with the Parish Council, and that the repairs will cost at least £17.7k plus VAT, assuming there is no more work needed in other areas.

There are more areas that need further investigation, and if these also need to be cleared out and filled in with more solid material, then the costs could be much higher. Given that the precept is £90k, this is not affordable to the parish. The clerk was given permission to employ a solicitor to give a legal opinion, and if necessary to take things further, up to a cost of £10k.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Jones, Heath, Sutlieff, and the clerk met with two members of the AECOM team and with the Consultant Lee Searles and discussed how to develop a Design Code for Charvil before taking a tour of Charvil to talk about what people liked and disliked about the properties in Charvil, and how well various developments fit together. They will now go away and develop a Code, which should be complete in three to four months. Lee Searles also mentioned that it would be worth investigating how many properties have solar panels as these feeds into the carbon footprint – it looked as if Charvil was below average in terms of adopting solar power so more could be done on this issue.

To consider and approve the template for event planning, and to decide on events for the coming year

After some discussion as to whether it was too detailed, it was agreed to trial it for a year.

There was a discussion around what types of events the Council should do, whether we should “piggyback” onto other events and such like, but the net result was to concentrate on the annual parish meeting, the fete and an event at either Halloween or Christmas. Other ideas included having a presence at the Charvil Art Group Exhibition, a sunflower growing competition, and some kind of competition involving the school, with the results being announced at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting on 8th January 2024

OPEN FORUM

Three residents attended. One was objecting to the latest application at 20, Old Bath Road (232951). He is the neighbour, and wanted to show the Councillors how he will be impacted by loss of light, loss of privacy and displaced rainwater ending up on his drive. Added to this, the dwelling will end up being 2 ½ times the size of the original building, and he believes that some trees will need to be removed, which is contrary to what is stated in the application. The Councillors thanked him for bringing these points to their attention.

The second resident wanted to know if there had been any progress on the plan for a cycle route between Charvil and Twyford.

It was explained that the Borough had bid unsuccessfully for some money from the Levelling up Fund, but the cost of two bridges makes the plan very expensive, although it is included as a primary route in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. It was suggested that every effort should be made to keep this in the public eye, and that it may be possible to include this in the responses to the Consultation on the Borough Transport Plan.

The third resident was attending to raise concerns about the proposed redevelopment of Chilterns, in Thames Drive (232977). He had no objection to the applicant wanting to raise the house, given the effects of climate change on the weather patterns and increased flood events, but he wanted to raise several points. One was that the planning policy for the countryside allows an increase in volume of 50% of the original build; the dwelling had already been increased by this amount in the 1980's – this application seemed to be trying to increase the volume by another 50% on the expanded dwelling. The second point was that water could already travel under the existing building, and so the proposed benefits to flooding of the proposed building was misleading. Also, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment requires at least 5% reduction in flood displacement, and this is not the case with this proposal. The third point was that because the habitable accommodation had to allow for the flood waters below, the dwelling would appear, in its present form, as overbearing to the neighbouring property and would be even taller than Thatcher's Mead, the most recent rebuild in Thames Drive. There is no attempt at softening this with hipped roofs and such like, which could make it more acceptable. The Chairman thanked him for his comments.

Highways

To consider how to try again in moving on the Speed watch plan

The clerk explained that she now had a price for the signs of £250, and this would be up for approval at the next Full Council meeting. It was agreed that they would then push for volunteers to get them trained and hopefully start a campaign.

Environment

To hear feedback on the orchard planting

All the trees were sponsored by the planting date, and it was reasonably successful despite the very wet ground. The clerk will produce a map of the planting once complete, and a sign will be put up at the entrance to the park. There is already one sponsor for the final round of planting next year.



PHYSIOCARE
BODY MANAGEMENT




DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND SCANS

& ULTRASOUND GUIDED INJECTIONS FOR ARTHRITIS, TENDON
OR MUSCLE PAIN OR BURSITIS

- ✓ CORTISONE/STEROID
- ✓ OSTENIL PLUS (HYALURONIC ACID)
- ✓ PLATELET-RICH PLASMA (PRP)
- ✓ ARTHROSAMID (HYDRO GEL)

- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- SPORTS INJURIES
- JOINT & MUSCLE PAIN
- POST OPERATIVE REHAB
- PREGNANCY AND RECOVERY
- MUMS' MOT
- SPORTS MASSAGE
- RUNNERS' CLINIC

 01189344055

 WWW.PHYSIOCARE.CO.UK

 6 CHURCH STREET,
TWYFORD, RG10 9DR

Full Council Meeting on 22nd January 2024

Open Forum

The Media Assistant, Amenities Manager, and five residents attended. One resident attended out of interest, three attended to hear more about the sinkhole and one attended with an interest to be co-opted onto the Council. The resident interested in joining the Council introduced herself, explaining why she wanted to join the Council and what she would hope to bring to it. She has lived in Charvil for a couple of years, is a mother of a young child and is expecting another and is very interested in environmental issues. All the residents then stayed for the whole of the public part of the meeting.

To hear an update on the Scout birdboxes

The clerk reported that most of the boxes had signs of nesting and that a couple had been attacked – probably by squirrels, but possibly by woodpeckers. These have been repaired and the Scouts are hopeful for another successful year this breeding season.

To consider a request from the Air Ambulance to put a clothing bank at the Village Hall

After much discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal, it was agreed to sign up to a trial period, providing the nearby residents did not oppose it. The clerk is to add this to the February agenda for a follow-up.

To note the issues caused by the continued closure of East Park Farm car park and to consider any ideas to alleviate the situation until the car park is repaired

The clerk explained the issues that have been raised, and that it is appreciated that many people are inconvenienced. The Village Hall car park is open for the use by school parents but very few use it as they find this inconvenient. The residents present were all very concerned and exasperated by the continued closure, especially as it made Park Lane dangerous for pedestrians, but until the car park can be mended, there is little to be done but to encourage responsible parking, and more lift-sharing/walking to the site. The Council appreciate the difficulties raised for residents and hope a resolution can be found quickly.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Jones reported that we are still waiting for the green mapping report. AECOM are working on the Design Guide and the Council are initiating the Housing Needs assessment for Charvil. The Borough has earmarked 169 homes for Charvil between now and 2036, which includes the two sites in the draft Local Plan, and some windfall.

The housing needs assessment is a table-top exercise, but it will help us influence what will be built in the village. There has been a meeting with the planning consultant regarding getting the draft plan in place, and the green audit and community asset audit is nearly complete. Councillor Jones is also undertaking a survey of solar panels in the village to see how much energy is produced in the village. The next meeting is on 5th February and then the next step will be the screening opinion from the Borough.

To hear how the planning for the Annual Parish Meeting is progressing

The working group would like to hold the event at a weekend, but this may be difficult this year. The assistant clerk has been asked to keep suitable dates clear for next year. The idea would be to have a drop-in session, to improve community engagement, perhaps with something to amuse children while parents interact with Councillors. It was also suggested to invite some of the groups so that they can promote themselves, and possibly invite Cleaner and Greener to answer any queries about the change to bi-weekly rubbish collections. There was also a discussion about how to improve attendance, and apart from using our normal forms of communication, it would be an idea to get the event into the school newsletter. The working group will set up another meeting and will report back next month.

To hear a debrief on the Flood Plan and to note the proposed development of an emergency plan

The flood plan had its first test in January with the severe flooding of much of the local area, and although thankfully no properties in the main part of the village were flooded, much of the plan was put into practice in terms of using the WhatsApp group, keeping people abreast of what was happening, the use of the Village Hall car park being offered, and such like. After this event, there was a debrief amongst staff as to how it went from the Council side, and the clerk and assistant clerk met with the flood warden to discuss how things went, and what could be improved. As a result of these meetings, it was agreed to update the plan as to who the best contacts are on the Council side, and for the flood group to draw up its own risk assessment and safeguarding policy if they ever do need to use one of our buildings to help affected residents. They now have keys to both buildings. It was also agreed that the Council needs to develop an emergency plan, and that the flood plan will sit within this. The assistant clerk and administration/media assistant will draw up a draft of this to be brought to the Council at a later date.

To hear an update on the sinkhole and to give retrospective approval for the appointment of a solicitor to act on the Council's behalf

The appointment of the solicitor was approved. The Chair explained that she and the clerk were to meet with Stephen Conway, the Head of the Borough Council and Sarah Morgan, the Assistant Director in charge of Property, on Tuesday to try to find a way forward. The main issue revolves around the lease and insurance – the Borough insure the property, but although they tried to insure for sinkholes, the only companies that applied for the contract only offered insurance if a building was also damaged – so the sinkhole was not covered. Wokingham argue that means, under the terms of the lease, the damage falls under the Parish Council's responsibility, which is a point the Parish has been disputing.

To consider whether to co-opt the resident attending this evening

This was approved unanimously.

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting 5th February 2024

OPEN FORUM

One resident attended to raise concerns about Application number 240170, siting of a mobile home. He lives next door to the applicant, and the first he knew about it was when the mobile home was being constructed onsite. The applicant described it as a "garden room", but it is much bigger than one would expect, and it is not the same shape as appears on the plans that have been submitted. The Chair thanked him and the meeting continued.

Highways

To hear progress with Speed watch

The signs are on order, and the clerk has contacted the Thames Valley Police representative. The training is online, and the Parishes can now hire the equipment, which the Committee felt would be a good way forward. Cllr. Sutlieff is willing to be involved, but other Councillors felt they were too busy. The proposal will be promoted more vigorously on social media.

Environment

To consider how to promote the litter pick

It was agreed to use low-cost methods to advertise the litter pick. It should be advertised on social media, and the posts shared to try to get a wider coverage. Sam Akhtar should be asked to encourage his group to come along, and the uniformed groups should be asked to get involved as well. The school newsletter should also be used. It was agreed not to produce a leaflet this year.

To note that the clerk is assessing two Duke of Edinburgh participants with the litter picking volunteering

This was noted.

Planning Matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

- 232424 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, plus alteration to the existing porch, following the demolition of existing rear extension at 42, Park View Drive North
- 233081 Householder application for the proposed erection of a 2-storey front extension, single storey infill side extension on first floor facing south, single storey rear extension, garage conversion and changes to fenestration at 31, St Patrick's Avenue
- 233053 Application for the proposed single storey front extension at 2, Gingells Farm Road
- 233090 Application for proposed a single storey front extension to create a porch at 11 Old Bath Road

The Council commented on these applications as follows:

- 232951 Application for the proposed Single storey front extension, single storey side extension, 2 storey rear extension, 2 storey side extension, conversion of the loft to create habitable accommodation, changes to fenestration following demolition of the existing detached garage at 20 Old Bath Road

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

- 1. This application is contrary to CP3 in that it increases the mass of the property so as to adversely affect the amenities of the neighbouring property.*
- 2. It is also in contravention of the Borough Design Code R23 which states that extensions should respond positively to the original building. If this proposal is passed, then the original design will be completely lost. It is similar to Application Number 213424, at 11, Old Bath Road, which was refused on the grounds that: "The proposed development, by reason of its design, form and scale would result in a complicated,*

incongruous and jarring development within the street scene, which would not relate well to the neighbouring properties on Old Bath Road. The proposal would cause significant harm to the visual amenity of the dwelling and the wider character of the area and is contrary to Core Strategy Policy CP1, CP3, MDD Local Plan Policy CC01, The Borough Design Guide SPD and section 12 of the NPPF."

3. The loss of light to 18, Old Bath Road is concerning, as the proposal will affect light into both the front and rear of this property.

4. Despite the size of the plot, this proposal is overbearing and out of character with the neighbouring properties to the right, which are largely bungalows of chalet bungalows; to the left are semi-detached properties that form another block, and this proposal will complement neither.

232977

Application for the proposed erection of 1no. Two storey dwelling with annexe and attached two bay carport following demolition of existing dwelling and garage at Chilterns, Thames Drive

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

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

1. This application is contrary to both CP11 of the Core Strategy, as this is an inappropriate increase in the scale and form compared to the original dwelling. It must be noted that the current building has already been extended twice in the 1980's, so the original form has already been extended by the 50% increase in volume allowed.

2. This development does not comply with the 5% reduction in the footprint as required in the Borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It should also be noted that the flood report in the application is misleading as water can already travel under the building, so there is not likely to be the improvement suggested in the flooding report.

3. Because the proposed dwelling is to be raised to allow for the new realities of increased flooding, the result will be overbearing on the immediate neighbours because the two dwellings are relatively close together. Given that these dwellings are in the open countryside, this would be incongruous, and the design needs to be amended to protect the sense of space along the row of houses.

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.

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.

The height of the building and second floor windows will overlook the neighbouring properties and will compromise their privacy.

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.

The CIL calculations will need verification as all outbuildings have been included.

233021 Application for the proposed conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestration at 110, The Hawthorns

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like the issue regarding the shared parking space being counted as one of the property's parking spaces clarified before this application is determined.

240170

Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for the stationing of a mobile home for residential use incidental to the main dwelling at 129, The Hawthorns – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to argue that this building at the centre of this application is not allowed under a Certificate of Lawful Usage because it clearly does not fit the definition: "a mobile home is a prefabricated structure, built in a factory on a permanently attached chassis before being transported to site".

The building is more of an extremely large outbuilding, which would require planning permission.

Even if it were to fit the description of a mobile home, however tenuously, the building is clearly for habitable accommodation, which again, would require full planning permission.



Uncompromising Excellence in Hair Care

Spring Issue

Style
by Julie
Est. 1988

Specialist Hair Cutting and Beauty Therapy
Experts in Colouring and Permanent Waving
Hairdressing for Men, Women and Children

Private Hair and Beauty Salon
Badgers Rise,
Woodley, Reading,
RG5 3AJ
0118 4378178
07545 107525
www.stylebyjulie.co.uk
salon@stylebyjulie.co.uk

 @stylebyjulieReading
 @stylebyjulie
 @stylebyjulieRG

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 231682 Application for the proposed erection of 2 no. semi-detached three bedroom dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings at 4, Old Bath Road
- 232424 Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension, plus alteration to existing front porch, following the demolition of existing rear extension at 42, Park View Drive North
- 233021 Application for the proposed conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestration at 110, The Hawthorns
- 231176 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension at 1a, Milestone Crescent
- 233053 Application for a proposed single storey front extension at 2 Gingells Farm Road

The following applications were refused by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 232110 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear outbuilding at 25, Gingells Farm Road
- 233128 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent [35826/F] dated [01/08/1995] to allow Minor revisions to external (front to back) dimensions to plot 8 (now having the registered postal address of 115 The Hawthorns) Deletion of kitchen window, external door to living room and secondary window to bedroom 1 at 115, The Hawthorns
- 232951 Householder application for the proposed Single storey front extension, single storey side extension, 2 storey rear extension, 2 storey side extension, conversion of the loft to create habitable accommodation, changes to fenestration following demolition of the existing detached garage at 20 Old Bath Road

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

Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2024

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
22 May 2024	Annual Parish Meeting
03 June 2024	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
10 June 2024	Amenities Committee Meeting
17 June 2024	Full Council Meeting
01 July 2024	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
08 July 2024	Amenities Committee Meeting
15 July 2024	Full Council Meeting
12 August 2024	Planning and Finance Meeting

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

Charvil Parish Councillors

Pat Sutliff	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 maltwalker@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
Katrin Harding	Councillor	katrinharding@charvil.com
	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

SPEED WATCH!

We are hoping that the parish will finally get a Speed watch initiative up and running in the village in the next few weeks.

The idea is to record those who are speeding, and what speed they are doing, and then the information is passed to the police who will then contact offenders to warn them. If they are persistent offenders, they will be monitored, but the main aim of the programme is behaviour change, not to catch people out.

To run a session, there needs to be a team of three people, and to be most effective, the exercise needs to be repeated on the same stretch of road a number of times at regular intervals, so more volunteers improve effectiveness.

The system keeps on moving on, and now it should be much easier and effective because:

- a) Training is online and can be done when it suits a potential volunteer
- b) All equipment can be borrowed so it is not a drag on financial resources
- c) There is now a central database so the system to contact offenders should run more smoothly.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered, and if anyone else is interested please contact clerk@charvil.com.

ELECTION CHANGES

Most of you will be aware that at the next General Election, Charvil will now be part of the Wokingham Constituency, but you may not be aware of changes at a local level.

A couple of years ago, the Electoral Commission offered the Borough Council the choice of keeping the current Borough Councillor areas the same and having one election every four year, or to keep the current election cycle and to create 18 even sized voting areas, or wards. The Borough Council voted for the latter, and so, to start the new system ALL council seats are up for re-election.

Charvil is now part of what is called Thames Ward, which consists of Sonning, Charvil, Wargrave and Remenham, and this area will be served by three Borough Councillors. So, for this time only, we will be voting for THREE Borough Councillors to serve the whole area. One will be up for election in two years' time, one in three years' time and the other in four years' time, so we will be offered the chance to vote three years out of every four for our Borough Councillors.

Fortunately, nothing is changing at Parish level!

Please also remember that from now on, we will be required to provide Photo I.D. to vote – acceptable forms of identification can be found on the Electoral Commission's website. If you do not have a suitable form, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) providing you are on the electoral roll.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Dear Neighbours,

I trust this message finds you well and enjoying the more pleasant weather in spring. As your dedicated borough councillor, I am delighted to share some updates and highlights from our community efforts over the past few months.

Keeping Our Streets Clean and Beautiful: Thanks to the fantastic teamwork of our local volunteers, we've been able to make significant improvements in the cleanliness of our streets. From swiftly removing graffiti to organising community litter picks, we're all working together to keep Charvil looking its best. Plus, ensuring our street signs are clean not only adds to the beauty of our village but also helps keep everyone safe as they navigate our roads.

Protecting Our Community and Homes: Your safety and security are always a top priority for me. That's why I've been actively collaborating with Thames Valley Police to increase patrols and crack down on car thefts, especially those involving keyless entry which has become an issue recently. Together, we're working to ensure that every resident feels secure in their own home. I urge everyone who owns a vehicle with this feature, please do ensure your keys are left overnight in faraday pouches as this will help stop this from happening.

Amplifying Your Voices: I'm here to be your voice on the council, and I take that responsibility seriously. Whether it's advocating for responsible development practices or pushing for improvements to our infrastructure, I'm committed to representing your concerns and priorities every step of the way. Overdevelopment is always a concern which I am monitoring closely, its part of the issue with living so near to West London and with the Elizabeth line so close, our area is getting a lot of positive attention (Particularly after George Clooney moved down the road) which means lots of people want to live here too! The challenge is balancing the needs of current residents whilst also ensuring we have enough homes for the next generation.

Exciting News for Charvil: I'm thrilled to share some exciting news with you all! Charvil will soon be part of the new Thames Ward, alongside Sonning & Wargrave. This presents us with wonderful opportunities for collaboration and more shared events, making our community even stronger. I genuinely think bringing Charvil, Sonning & Wargrave together as one ward is great!

Local Elections Thursday 2nd May 2024

Don't forget, local elections are just around the corner on Thursday, 2nd May. Your vote is incredibly important, so please make sure your voice is heard! It's important you use your voice to decide who you want to represent you at the borough council and ensure you have the people you want as your chosen representatives. Charvil will be part of the Thames Ward and after the elections you will have three dedicated Cllrs working as a team to look after the new larger ward. I welcome the opportunity to continue on as your Cllr after May 2024 and hope to connect with even more of you over the coming year.

As we look ahead to the future of our village, I'm grateful for your continued support and engagement. Together, we can make Charvil an even better place to live, work, and raise our families.

Warmest regards, **Cllr Sam Akhtar**

sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk



Spring into action
Secure your home

Help us to keep crime down and make life harder for criminals by following our crime reduction advice.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The poster features a light blue background with a row of yellow daffodils at the bottom. On the left, there are three overlapping photographs: a person in a green shirt working in a garden, a wooden fence in a garden, and a yellow wheelbarrow with green boots. The text 'Spring into action' is written in a large, green, cursive font, and 'Secure your home' is written in a smaller, blue, cursive font below it. At the bottom left is the Thames Valley Police logo, and at the bottom right is the text 'Help us to keep crime down and make life harder for criminals by following our crime reduction advice.'

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING REPORT

Spring into action and protect your home, garage, shed and garden buildings from theft.

The 15-20 minutes you spend on the school run or popping out to the shops is all a thief needs to break-in to your property.

Please consider these crime prevention tips to protect your home, garage, shed, and garden buildings this spring:

- Ensure your home, shed, garage and other garden buildings are secure and never leave doors or windows unlocked when you are not around
- Alarm it - there are systems on the market for all budgets and ensure existing alarms are serviced and maintained
- Consider installing CCTV (closed circuit television). Some systems can be accessed remotely via the internet or smart phone. Ensure you check privacy laws when installing CCTV systems
- Check whether your home insurance covers the contents of your home, garage, shed and other garden buildings from theft
- Security mark and register your possessions so they can be identified at www.immobilise.com
- Remove valuable equipment like laptops from outbuildings used as offices when you are not in attendance
- Use strong padlocks on doors with no exposed screws and pay attention to hinges, which can be easily removed
- Lock your tools inside a locker or box or secure them with a chain
- Secure bikes to the ground or a lockable stand and drape an old sheet or blanket over them to keep them covered from view
- Secure access to the back garden. Are your gates and fences maintained?
- Thorny or prickly plants can be a deterrent in strategic positions, such as underneath windows or below walls and fences
- Ensure hedges and shrubs are trimmed back to prevent areas intruders could hide or observe you. Crunchy gravel is also good for paths or areas around outbuildings
- If you have a detached garage in a block, consider fitting additional security locks to the door to reduce the risk of offenders prising it open

- Receive free crime and information updates by registering for Thames Valley Alerts at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk
- Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme - visit www.ourwatch.org.uk for more information.

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, call 101 or in an emergency 999. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

You can contact your local neighbourhood policing team via: WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk - please note this address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Follow us on social media to find out what your local policing teams are up to - Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham / Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

ROYAL BERKSHIRE **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY - Automatic Fire Alarm Consultation 2024

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is asking people to consider how their fire and rescue service responds to Automatic Fire Alarms as part of a public consultation. The consultation will run from **Monday, 4 March to Monday, 13 May 2024**.

The consultation, which will run for 10 weeks, is asking for people's views on how their fire and rescue service responds to Automatic Fire Alarms in buildings such as shops, offices, leisure centres, colleges, sports grounds, libraries, schools and health centres.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to send fire engines to automatic fire alarm notifications at higher risk buildings, where anyone sleeps, such as hotels, hospitals, care homes, houses, and flats.

Most importantly, the Service will continue to maintain an emergency response to 999 calls, confirmed fires and to automatic fire alarm notifications from residential homes.

RBFRS needs to change the way it responds to automatic fire alarm notifications to ensure communities and firefighters are kept safe. This is because 99% of the automatic fire alarm calls are false alarms. Attending these types of incidents causes significant disruption to the delivery of essential services and training.

The Fire Authority is encouraging as many people as possible to have their say on the three options detailed within the [Automatic Fire Alarm Consultation Document](#).

To take part in the consultation, residents can:

Complete the survey online via website www.rbfrs.co.uk.

Email – consultations@rbfrs.co.uk.

- Phone – 0118 938 4331.

The Service will also be holding online Q&A sessions as part of the consultation, which will take place on:

11 April 2024 between 12pm-1pm; or

11 April 2024 between 7pm and 8pm.

Residents' can register in advance on the RBFRS website.

If anyone would like a hard copy or require assistance with accessing the information in an alternative format to the below options, please contact us using any of the methods above.

After the consultation has closed, all feedback received will be conscientiously considered by the Fire Authority at a meeting in June 2024

**THE WINDOW
CLEANER**

- All types of windows
- Windows inside & out
- Doors, frames & sills
- Conservatories
- Gutter Vac cleaning system
- All year service
- Attention to detail
- Genuine competitive prices

Call Mike on **07967 00 44 26**
for a free quote or email
thewindowcleaner1@gmail.com

BRYN BALLET ACADEMY

Ballet Classes - RAD Syllabus

Charvil & Henley



tel: 07495 949135

www.brynballetacademy.co.uk



FLOODING REPORT

Most of the village, and certainly those on the eastern margin, will be aware that there was a sharp rise in the flood level overnight 5th-6th January and some woke up to find their streets and car parks under water. The flood level came within a few tens of centimetres of its record level of February 2014 but did not cause the disruption seen then, with no property in the main part of the village suffering any internal flooding. Indeed for modern properties, there was still some way to go before damp courses were reached. This was nevertheless a test for our newly established flood response team and of the flood response plan that we had just got approved by the Parish Council a few weeks in advance. Word spread quickly and the newly established Whatsapp group soon expanded from 20 to 200 members, enabling rapid communication of our interpretation of which properties were at risk and alerting residents of the existence of the online plan so as to advise them how to respond.

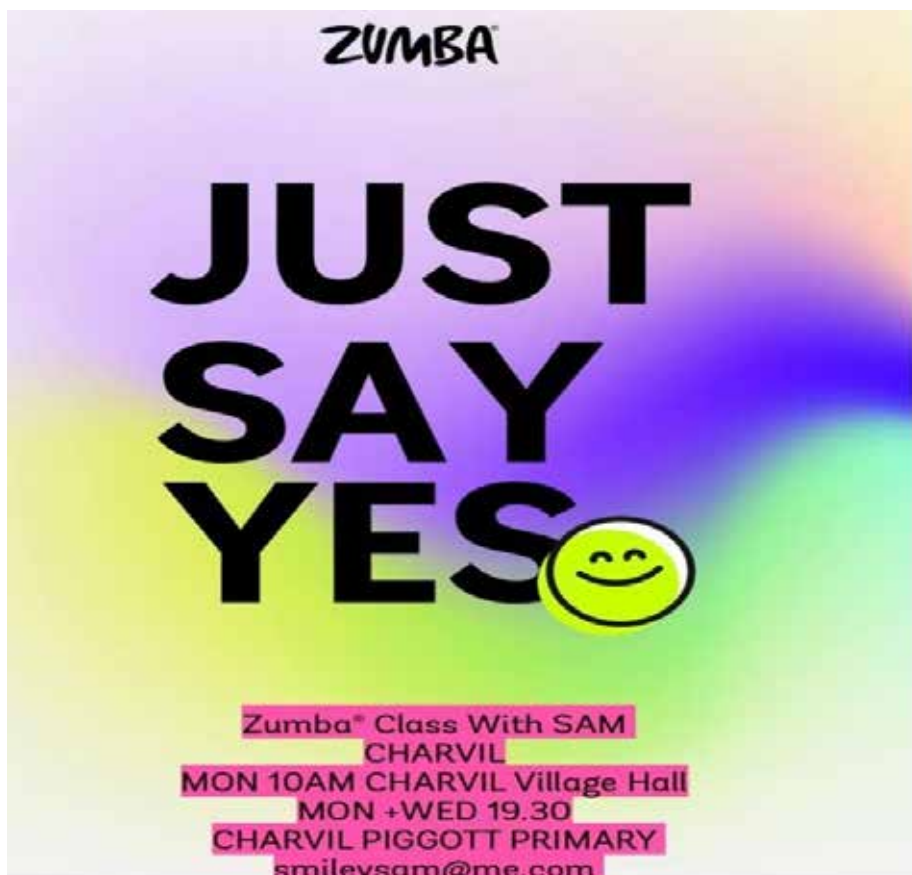
Flooding has reached close to this level several times in past winters, and although such events are becoming more frequent, they, to date at least, do not seem to be becoming more severe. The January event and the aerial photographs shared on the WhatsApp group gave us a much better understanding of the controls on flood level. We are first affected by a rise in the Loddon then when the Thames rises after a few days delay, the rivers merge and we then seem to be on the shores of a large 'lake' controlled by Shiplake Lock and by the restriction in the Thames created by the Henley to Twyford railway embankment. We are then part of a managed system. While this is bad news for low lying properties near the river, which may be 'sacrificed', it does give some reassurance for the main part of the village, as for the flood to be allowed to rise to a level where many properties would flood internally in Charvil, then the same levels on the 'lake' at Shiplake, Wargrave, Twyford and Sonning would all be affected.

However, if a flood did rise higher, how would we respond?. Remember cars will be affected well before properties will be, so have somewhere to move these (the Village Hall car park will be opened). If you go away over the winter, leave keys with a neighbour. Few people had welly boots so buy these!. You should have a plan if your property is affected. Everyone thinks of sandbags here, but these may only delay the ingress of water, may require up to 100 for a detached house and will not be effective against rising groundwater, which seemed to be playing a part in January. So that is a personal decision specific to the nature of your property. Even if you use sandbags, be prepared for water entering from below or seeping through the sandbags: one or two puddle pumps will help here.

Have a supply of bricks or similar to raise furniture above ground level; a few centimetres may make a lot of difference. If there is sufficient interest (watch the Whatsapp Group), the Environment Agency are willing to come and give us a short talk at the start of next winter on protective measures. If, in the worst case, we had a flood much higher than that seen to date this century and several houses were flooded, then we would make the Village Hall available as a temporary shelter for children and vulnerable adults (sorry no pets!). This is on the basis that parents may be moving children and to prevent them playing in contaminated floodwaters.

The flood plan is at : <https://www.charvil.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CHARVIL-FLOOD-PLAN-v3-minus-contacts-Dec2023.pdf> (though we will be revising this) and you may join the Whatsapp Group at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKJrAMJG40eFqr85C7J0yb>

Duncan Macgregor, Charvil Flood Warden



ZUMBA®

**JUST
SAY
YES** 😊

Zumba® Class With SAM
CHARVIL
MON 10AM CHARVIL Village Hall
MON +WED 19.30
CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY
smileysam@me.com

FORMER PARISH COUNCILLOR RECEIVES HONOUR

We were delighted to learn that Jim Gillett, previous Chair of the Parish Council, was recognised for his services to the community by being awarded the British Empire Medal in HM The King's New Year Honours in January.



Jim received his award from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire in a ceremony at Windsor Guildhall in early March, accompanied by his wife and two of his daughters.

Jim was a serving Councillor for almost thirty years, including several terms as Chair of the Council. Along with his role as Councillor, Jim has been an active member of The Rotary Club, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for the benefit of good causes and charities both around Reading and nationally.

One of these local charities, Charvil-based My Cancer, My Choices, was also presented with the King's Award for Voluntary Service at the same ceremony.

On receiving his award, Jim said that it was "much appreciated, but completely unexpected".

Everyone at Charvil Parish Council would like to express our immense pride in your contribution being recognised by His Majesty, and thank you for everything you helped the Council achieve over three decades.

Congratulations, Jim!

The King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK is presented to ten of the charity's longest serving volunteers from the charity My Cancer My Choices. In the citation given by Lindsey Beard JP DL, the Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, she remarked *"It is difficult to capture the power and importance of this charity... Unique in Berkshire, this charity is clearly one of the most important and effective charities one is ever likely to meet."*



POLEHAMPTON SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Save the date! – reopening for the season on Saturday 4th May 2024



We are planning to reopen at 10AM on Saturday 4th May. Come along to enjoy a dip, tea and cake and celebrate the start of the season with friends.

website www.psaswimming.co.uk
Association on Facebook. Family membership costs just £55 for the season.

Membership applications will be opening soon: keep an eye on our or follow Polehampton Swimming Association on Facebook. Family membership costs just £55 for the season.

The pool is open outside of school hours, from Saturday 4th May through to Saturday 14th September, except for bank holidays. See full timetable opposite.

Facilities include:

- 25m heated outdoor pool in pleasant grounds.
- Newly refurbished heated showers, changing rooms, lockers and WC's
- Swimming sessions for all ages and abilities, swimming aids and pool toys
- Private hire, children's pool parties and access to children's swimming lessons
- Kitchen area with tea and coffee facilities & fridge
- Tuck shop and refreshments available.

Get involved – become a Polehampton volunteer!

The swimming pool is a community facility, run by a small committee with a lot of help from local volunteers. We cannot operate without you! The committee oversees the entire management of the pool, including maintenance, water quality, compliance, supervision, gardening, pool bookings etc. We would welcome any new volunteers or specialist trades. This season we are particularly looking for volunteers to join our friendly team of poolside supervisors. In return we can offer first aid training and access to additional volunteer swimming sessions. If you are interested in becoming involved, or would perhaps like to join our committee, please contact the Chairperson, Sharon Searle on 07765 842323.

Our swimming sessions -

The pool is open from Saturday 4th May until Saturday 14th September outside of school hours. There are a range of sessions to suit all ages. Please see our full timetable below and retain for future reference. A fair booking policy may apply during busy times.

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



Polehampton Junior School
Kibblewhite Crescent
Twyford
RG10 9AX

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WOKINGHAM

On the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month (January – November) we run our gentle seated exercise group 'Love to Move' at the wonderful Charvil Village Hall.

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 session.

"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"

Dementia friendly Wokingham is an 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 mobile.

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

Website: www.dementiafriendlywokingham.co.uk

Email address: DementiaWokingham@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk

Or adele.ireland@ageukberkshire.org.uk

Telephone: 07759124067



THE PROJECT SINGERS

This term the choir have been working on a selection of songs from stage and screen including Sunrise Sunset, The music of the night, Ascot Gavotte and When I grow up. The section for girls are taking part in the regional festival series of Music for Youth as well as doing a choir exam! The section for ladies are doing an informal concert at Charvil Hall as well as the finals of Let's Sing Reading 2024 at The Hexagon!

Our summer term project is 'Chocolate Box' to celebrate World Chocolate Day on July 7th! We will be working on songs about chocolate and sweets including Lollipop, Hotta chocolatta, The candyman and Buy me chocolate! We have a couple of spaces left so if you are interested in joining please contact the choir's Musical Director, Suzanne Newman – suzanneynewman@btinternet.com



Singing sessions

There are two singing sessions coming up for female voices. The first is on June 8th between 2.00 and 4.00pm. We will be working on a great medley of songs by the Beatles arranged for 2-part choir. Songs include Penny Lane, Let it be and Hey Jude. This is £12 which includes music.

The second is a mini-course on July 15th and 22nd between 8.00 and 9.30pm. This time it will be a selection of Abba songs – Thank you for the music, Fernando and Waterloo – arranged for 2-part female voice choir. We will also be doing some work on vocal technique. This is £20 which includes music.

To book a place, please contact Suzanne Newman – suzanneynewman@btinternet.com



EASTER QUIZ TIME - QUESTIONS *(answers on last page)*

1. Which country does Easter Island belong to?
2. Judy Garland and Fred Astaire starred in which 1948 springtime film?
3. What is Bambi's rabbit friend called?
4. 'How do you eat yours?' was the famous advertising slogan for what?
5. What is the name of a male rabbit?
6. Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?
7. What is the name of the jeweller who decorated Easter eggs for royalty?
8. What flower is considered to be a symbol of Easter?
9. What part of the cocoa plant is chocolate made from?
10. The world's tallest ever chocolate Easter egg was approximately how tall?

CHARVIL ART GROUP

Charvil Art Group is a small friendly group which meets once a week on Wednesdays at Charvil Village Hall at 19:30.



During our Spring term we followed another interesting programme of topics, as well as holding 'Tutor' evenings, to inspire and to help develop skills. As we are a 'club' rather than a 'class', we are free to explore our own styles of paintings, mediums etc., and at all levels of ability.

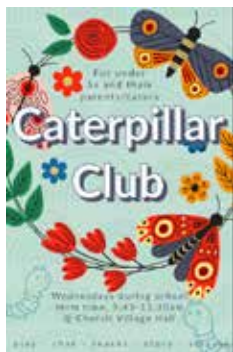
For example, last term, as well as trying out the suggested topics on the Programme, we held a Tutor 'workshop' for one of the evenings. Jonathan Newey explained the use of watercolour pencils, taking us step-by-step through a picture and giving us lots of useful hints and tips. On another evening we had a demonstration by local artist Jan Gaska, painting 'people in movement', using Gouache (which was a new medium to most of us!). It was very interesting to see the paper transform into the final finished picture of an athlete at full speed!

Over Easter (and during April) we have an exhibition of paintings at Dinton Pastures. So if you are at Dinton for a walk, and you pop into the café, you will be able to see the variety of both styles and subjects that we cover in the Group.

And if you are interested in joining the Group or to find out more, please visit our website - www.charvilartgroup.co.uk or, contact Hilary on 0118 934 3595 or just pop in one evening to meet us. Summer term starts on 17th April.

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 summer term starts on 17th April 2024.

Any updates or for further information find us on www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub.

BSWD OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL 2024

The Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers meets regularly at Charvil Village Hall. We explore and share old and new skills and crafts from fibre to fabric and there is always more to learn. Everyone, from dyed-in-the-wool enthusiasts to interested novices, will find a warm welcome!



Our Open Day this year is on **Saturday, 20th April from 11am-3pm, at Charvil Village Hall, RG10 9TT.**

Come and see what we do, take a look at the display of spinning and weaving equipment and some inspiring examples of members' work.

Try your hand at Weaving, Solar Dyeing (great for children!), Drop Spindling, Colour Blending and 7-Strand Braiding.



There will also be a sales table and light refreshments, delicious cakes and savoury nibbles.

Entry is free.

Find our website at <https://www.bswd.org.uk> for details of our regular meetings and activities.

Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh

International Women's Day (8 March) was celebrated by the Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh with a Soup Lunch held at a member's home. The proceeds (£205) from voluntary donations will go to the Club's international charity 'The Book Bus'.

After lunch we gathered in the sunshine with 100 tote bags members had made for our main charity The Cowshed, a local charity which provides support to people and children of all backgrounds in times of crisis. These particular bags will be filled with clothing and other items. Why 100 bags? Because '100 for 100' is an initiative to find unusual ways of celebrating this very special centenary year. The Inner Wheel organisation began in the UK in 1924 and is now one of the largest organisations for women with over 100,000 members in more than 103 countries, with membership open to all women since April 2012.



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. Our website <https://www.innerwheelrme.org> has more information about our club and the Inner Wheel organisation in general. Or you can email us at iwcrme@gmail.com

Sheila Thorpe, Club Correspondent



“
I'm happy to
stay in my home
”

Your personal Live-in Care assistant

You love your home and you feel safe there. Needing additional care and support shouldn't change that.

Live-in Care provides you with your own personal care assistant that lives with you in your home providing bespoke care, built around your individual needs.

With such a personal service, you'll want to engage with people you can trust, who are highly trained, who listen, understand and show compassion. Our team deliver all of this and more.

Referred to by our customers as 'lovely blue angels' we deliver award-winning home care as personal as you are.

Call us for a friendly chat about Live-in Care.

Bluebird Care Reading & Wokingham

0118 986 3562

bluebirdcare.co.uk/reading-wokingham

reading@bluebirdcare.co.uk



More detailed information on live-in care including what you can expect from your live-in care assistant can be found at bluebirdcare.co.uk/live-in-care

your life
your home
your care
your way



EASTER QUIZ TIME - ANSWERS

1. CHILE
2. EASTER PARADE
3. THUMPER
4. CADBURY'S CREME EGG
5. BUCK
6. NEW CLOTHES
7. PETER KARL FABERGE
8. LILY
9. BEANS
10. 10 METRES



Grant & Stone

The only trade account you'll ever need!

READING BRANCHES

BUILDERS MERCHANTS

01182 075 160

Blanke Villa, Lambs Lane, Spencers Wood, RG7 1JB

PLUMBERS MERCHANTS

01189 429 499

Unit 17, Stadium Trade & Business Park, RG30 6BX

FREE
DESIGN
SERVICE



Grant & Stone
**KITCHENS &
BATHROOMS**



01182 073 053

Unit 17, Stadium Trade
& Business Park,
RG30 6BX

COMMUNITY CONNECT



Make Connections

From 7:30pm, you can find out about local groups and societies, and chat with your Parish Councillors

Annual Parish Meeting

From 8pm, you can hear about the activities of the Parish Council and hear our plans for the future



**Wednesday
22nd May**

Charvil Village Hall

Free raffle & refreshments