

# Charvil Village News



Winter 2024

In this edition:



Lifesavers  
Trained



Speedwatch  
Update



Village Fete  
Review



Solar Panels  
for the Pavilion  
and more!



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## EDITORS INTRODUCTION

With its short days, gloomy light and lower temperatures, this time of year is understandably closely associated with darkness, cold and solemnity. However, our word 'winter' comes from an old Germanic word that means "time of water", which is of little surprise given the evidence all around Charvil of the recent storms in terms of swollen lakes, flooded footpaths and boggy conditions for walking in Charvil Country Park. I'm glad that local residents did not experience any flooding from the rising river levels recently.

As always, a big thank-you to the Twyford and District Round Table for organising Santa and his sleigh to visit the children of Charvil and surrounding villages again this year.

Inside this edition you will find various news and updates on local issues, goings-on and developments, including information about the re-launch of Charvil Parish Council's own website, plus the progress of the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan.

Despite the desperately wet weather and dark nights, we should try to remember that the light, warmth and hope of Spring will indeed follow.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year and 2025 ahead – we hope you enjoy this latest issue of Charvil Village News.

Amanda Burton, Editor

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## **CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD**

Dear Friends and Neighbours

I signed off my last foreword remarking on the July rain pouring down and as I sit here in December as Storm Darragh blows across the country following on from the very wet Storm Bert little seems to have changed with water already being seen across the fields and meadows surrounding the village. If you want to be prepared for any future flooding please visit the councils website where we have details of our flood plan and information about the local Flood WhatsApp Group:

(<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/are-you-prepared-this-flood-season>)

The work of the Parish Council though continues whatever the weather with the continual efforts of the council team to keep on top of litter and graffiti and ensuring that our facilities are maintained and managed effectively. Recently, you will have seen the Village Hall exterior repainted and the hall surface upgraded as well repairs at the Tennis courts.

One exciting project that the council is pursuing is the possible installation of solar panels including a battery unit at the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion, we are pursuing this through Wokingham Borough's Solar Together scheme. The building has been surveyed and is deemed suitable so now we are just awaiting the final details before installation. Once installed the panels should allow us to reduce our ongoing energy costs and also reduce our CO2 footprint. Additionally this month we participated in National Tree Week and a small group of volunteers planted further trees in the Village (again in the rain!) after the last couple of years where we have planted extensive numbers of trees this year's focus was on replacement of trees that have been lost this included a kindly donated Rowan tree at the village Hall, a Silver Birch on the mound at East Park Farm a replacement Lime tree at Vale View and a large number of hedgerow species both at East Park Farm car park and along the access road next to the school. We'll be planting more trees in the community orchard on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and taking part in National Tree week again next year and are always looking for new suggestion for locations to plant, should you wish to get involved please contact Miranda the Parish Clerk via email:

([clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk))

Additional to this many of you will have seen our second speed indicator machine has been deployed in the village. It's currently set up on Park Lane primarily to count the number of vehicles using this road whilst Waingels Road is closed. Whilst you would assume this location immediately adjacent to the mini roundabout doesn't see much speeding we have still recorded speeds up to 46 mph.

There have also recently been a number of accidents on Park View Drive South with cars exiting the A4 at speed, the area around the shop often has poorly parked cars and a large number of school children using the pavements and road on their way to and returning from school. We're in the process of approaching the Highways Department at Wokingham about how we can improve the situation here.

The main project in the coming year for the parish will be the upgrade of the children's play area at East Park Farm . The initial phase of work that you will notice in the coming weeks is the tree surgery works at the site including the removal of a large and diseased Lime tree and a reduction of the overall canopy, this has taken longer than planned to organise due to the trees being covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Once we have a better understanding of the site then planning of what we include in the play area can begin in detail, to that end we will be looking to engage with younger residents to get their ideas and input. The other challenge will be raising the funds we need to do everything we want, we'll keep you updated on this project as we progress.

This week I also had the pleasure of joining our Clerk and Assistant Clerk in visiting Charvil Piggott Primary School and meeting Head Teacher Claire Waite. We discussed many areas of mutual interest and have identified a number of things where we can work together in the future. One current area of shared concern is the provision of a pedestrian crossing between the school and the likely new housing developments across the road, the solution currently proposed by Wokingham Borough Council looks inadequate and it's an issue I intend to pursue with them further. We completed our visit with a brief tour of the school where I was delighted to see rehearsals for the nativity play looked to be in full swing!

As ever the thorny issue of planning continues to rear its head in Charvil the application to build 75 houses on the Hick's Field is scheduled for consideration at the Borough planning committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. The planning department having recommended approval and the site having been included in the local plan update there would appear to be little chance of this development not going ahead despite the overwhelming response against it from residents and the very serious concerns regarding the sustainability of the site. Assuming the approval is given then the focus needs to be securing benefits to the local community. In the last decade you would struggle to find any investment by Wokingham Borough Council in amenities or services within Charvil, the Hicks site as presented provides allotments and space for a play or recreation area and also triggers a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of over 5 million pounds to Wokingham, it would be good to see more of that money spent in Charvil.

Additionally the previously rejected Riverways Farm development for 230 homes on our borders with Twyford has this week been appealed by David Wilson Homes in front of an inspector. My fellow Councillor Pat Sutcliffe has been attending on behalf of the parish council and after a week of fierce argument the hearings have concluded with the judgement of the inspector expected in February next year. Additionally with the closure of Prince Bros. garage and the sale of the site, we understand there are plans to redevelop. As yet we are unaware of the details but as we do find out we will be keen to understand what impact it would have on our village.

Finally I'd just like to mention the CPR training held in the Village Hall recently which proved a great success and which the organizer Neil Durrant writes about elsewhere in this publication. We'd like to make events like this an annual occurrence and we have considered other possible subjects e.g. a general first aid course, sustainable living, or crime prevention & personal safety. If you would like to suggest a session topic or even feel like you have something to share we'd love to hear from you.

So as the end of the year approaches I wish a merry Christmas to those who celebrate it and hope everyone enjoys some time off with family and friends. I'd also remind people that collection boxes are still located in the Village Hall entrance for Woodley Foodbank so if you are able to donate something to those less fortunate than yourself that would be wonderful.

Many thanks, Rob Jones

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

### **Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July**

OPEN FORUM – Jane Hartley attended as a resident, and Dave Barks and Adrian Larkham of Econet attended.

Dave explained that he is the Chair of Econet, an umbrella group for conservation groups in Berkshire. He explained that the Government had set up the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to cover the whole of England, and that Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council had been designated the lead for the Berkshire area. Duncan Fisher, of Wokingham Borough Council, is very keen to get the parishes involved, which is why Dave is visiting Parishes to explain the role they could play. There is an interactive map, where residents and groups can add in areas that could have potential for being part of the nature recovery strategy, and Dave advised that it would be a good idea to add in as many as possible, although it must be noted that to be included, they would need landowner agreement. Essentially the plan is about wildlife and habitats. He explained that in Ruscombe, sites have been included in the Neighbourhood Plan, and that potential sites could either be existing sites that need improvement, or new sites.

Councillor Jones explained that sites were included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan as designated green spaces, and Dave Barks recommended including all these on the interactive map. Many of the designated sites in Charvil are owned by Wokingham Borough Council, and they are generally happy for them to be included on the map unless they are earmarked for other use. The main issue for the Borough is having the money to improve sites, so they are open to working with the Parishes to enhance this. In turn, Econet are willing to help parishes with their work where they can.

The other strand that needs to be recognised is the need for developers to prove biodiversity net gain. Generally, this would be accommodated onsite, but if this cannot be done, developers can pay to have this transferred to specific sites that are developed specifically for this purpose. It is possible parishes could benefit from getting involved with this as the developers would have to fund it. The Chair thanked Dave and Adrian for coming and they left at 8.25pm.

### **Highways**

#### **Park View Drive North**

The road has been top-dressed, but this has been done very badly, and there are some fresh potholes already visible. In places, the surface has been left very uneven. The Borough Councillors are involved and are trying to help resolve the issue.

## **To consider how to pursue the topic of the Charvil to Twyford Station Cycle track**

Councillor Cripps had a conversation with Stephen Conway recently in his capacity as a resident and he had agreed that this could help alleviate some of the parking problems at Twyford Station. The problem is the issue is much bigger than the Parish Council can deal with; it needs Great Western, the Borough Council, Twyford Parish Council, Woodley Parish Council and possibly other stakeholders to work together. The one positive is that the path is included in the Borough's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, so it may attract funding. It was noted that the most talked about route takes in the Nature Reserve, which would conflict with the Nature Recovery Strategy. It was agreed that Councillor Cripps would be the named person to lead on this, but it was accepted that the plan at the moment would be to keep the idea in the public eye.

## **Environment**

### **To note that some of the trees planted last year in the orchard have not survived and to decide whether to replace them**

The clerk explained that twelve had been planted, and all looked well in early April, and all looked ok in early May, but by early June, two looked dead, and another four look sick. Although it had been very wet when they were planted, it appeared the main issues were that the mild winter had meant they may not have been fully dormant when planted, and pests and diseases had not taken the usual seasonal knock that would be expected. Each year there has been a problem with aphids and ants on the trees, and this problem came earlier this year, and has contributed to the stress the trees have been under. Because no-one had spotted the trouble early enough, preventative action was not taken this year, hence the problems. It was agreed that they should be replaced, but that a push for more sponsors would be made at the fete, both for replacement trees and for the last batch of six. If not enough come forward, the Council would replace the trees out of its own funds.

To discuss the proposals suggested by Econet regarding the Berkshire Nature Recovery programme

It was agreed that, if possible, the designated green sites from the Neighbourhood Plan should be added to the interactive map.

## Full Council Meeting held on 15th July 2024

### Open Forum

One resident attended, mainly to observe, but he also commented on the poor state of the anti-skid surface approaching the mini roundabout on the Old Bath Road where it meets Park Lane.

### **To consider the grant applications from ABC to Read, ARC Youth Counselling, Citizen's Advice, Wokingham, Keep Mobile and The Link Visiting Scheme**

After some discussion, the following awards were agreed:

£360 to ABC to Read

£302 to Youth Counselling

£350 to Citizen's Advice Wokingham

£500 to Keep Mobile

£488 to The Link Visiting Scheme

### **To consider whether to put in an expression of interest for Solar together for one or both of our buildings**

It was agreed to put in an expression of interest as there is no commitment at this stage. It was noted that currently there is no budget for this, but it would be useful to know what the cost would be.



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**To note that Waste Services team at Wokingham are going to get the clothing banks removed and will review the site to see whether it is suitable for a Salvation Army one instead**

This was noted

### **Amenities Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

To consider installing exterior power sockets at the pavilion for future use

The Committee heard that the approximate cost would be in the region of £400-£500. Main user would be the annual fete but could facilitate other use of the outside. Cllr Hartley to enquire whether the fete committee would be willing to contribute towards the cost as the primary user. Assistant Clerk asked to get quotations for supply and fit along with a secure cover.

### **Full Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

#### **Open Forum**

Two residents attended, one to observe, and another to bring a matter to the Council's attention. A potential pre-school provider was also in attendance to give the Council an overview of her plans. The resident has a complaint about one of the Village Hall emergency lights that he says is keeping him awake at night, and was asking whether the Council could do something about it. The Councillors had already been to see what the issue was, and a discussion was held later in the meeting. The person interested in setting up a pre-school in the pavilion introduced herself as Aliya Chaudhri. She is an early years' teacher and comes from a social work background. She met with the Chair, clerk and Amenities manager in the summer to discuss whether the facility was suitable, and since then, she has been busy conducting online surveys. Unfortunately, the response rate was poor, but of those that did, the vast majority wanted a pre-school in the village. The majority also wanted to use their 30 hours free government entitlement to pay for the pre-school, although many also wanted to be able to access "wrap-around" care, so they could work during the school day. Ideally the required hours would be 7.30am to 6pm, but Aliya recognises that the late finish would not be possible due to use by community groups in the evenings. The latest finish would be 5pm. Some of the respondents to the survey suggested that she would need a unique selling point, and given the location of the pavilion, she has been exploring the possibility of a "forest" school. Her ethos is to follow the Reggio Emilia approach, which is a child-centred approach to learning – so the staff would build on what a child is expressing an interest in, to teach them a bit more about that topic, which may then lead onto other areas of interest.

In short, to build on a child's natural curiosity to help teach them about the world around them. Asked about the practicalities of using the pavilion, and that it would have to be a pack-away setting, she explained that in conversations with the Council representatives, it was acceptable to have cupboards on the back wall where equipment could be stored. She thanked the Council for their time and left at 8.25pm.

### **To approve participation in the National Tree Week, including the last phase of the Community Orchard**

Ex Councillor Heath led on this, and it was always the intention to do some planting in future years. This year, it seems like a good idea to replace the trees that died over the last year, and to find places for a small number this year. The media assistant was asked to see if people have any ideas where planting may be suitable in the village. The Council will try to source free trees where possible but may need to purchase some. It was noted that Feely Fruity give away some trees, but that for our orchard, we will continue to source heritage tree varieties as the aim was to develop a heritage community orchard. So far, there are two potential sponsors. National Tree week is from 23rd November, but it must be noted that in the past two years, the fruit trees have not gone in until well into December because of warm autumns.

### **To consider what the Parish Council can do to support the idea of teenage facilities**

The Chairman met with two residents to discuss this. Everyone agreed that while Vale View would be suitable on some levels, it would always be prone to flooding, so one alternative is to see whether it would be possible to site a facility on Hicks' land, which Councillor Harding will pursue. The only other location would be St Patrick's, but this is quite a long way from the centre of the village.

### **To hear an update on solar panels**

The clerk had submitted expressions of interests for both buildings, and while the panels were much cheaper than expected, it only really makes sense for the pavilion as it is south facing and is heated electrically. Wokingham had asked many questions that we don't know the answers to until the survey is completed, but to get that a deposit of £150 needs to be paid. It was resolved that this should be paid, as it would be a good idea to install them if possible.

### **To hear an update on the vegetable plot consultation, and to decide the next steps**

Councillors Sutlieff, Hartley and Jones visited all the homes in Mendip Close and Cheviot Drive over two weekends and spoke to a substantial number of residents.

At the point of visiting most people were either indifferent or in favour, but subsequently the clerk received many comments suggesting polarisation on the topic – in particular, the people who were against, were extremely strongly against. There is a second, smaller piece of land, that some people suggested, and this could work, but Council agreed that it would be a shame not to do anything with the larger piece of land as it is clearly under-utilised and could bring benefits to the community if their opposition to change could be broken down. There would be a further discussion at the next meeting as to how to consult as to what they may like there.

## **Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Environment**

#### **To consider where to plant more trees**

The idea was to try to replace at least the dead trees behind Vale View, and on the mound by the East Park Farm playing field. It was also suggested that the Council investigates planting trees on the bank of the stream to stabilise the soil.

#### **To note a complaint from a resident that some of the trees subject to a blanket Tree Preservation Order on the East Park Farm Estate boundary are too tall, and are shading some of the houses, and to consider whether anything can be done, noting the Council's Tree policy**

The clerk explained the situation; that Wokingham had originally maintained the trees and the green spaces next to them, but some residents offered to maintain them themselves in around 2006. Since then, they have not been properly maintained, and there have been many self-seeded trees growing, causing over-crowding and growth where none was intended. However, because they are covered by the Tree Preservation Order, there is little the Council can do. The Council's Tree policy suggests that residents can apply to the Borough directly to cut back any overhanging trees and can have the work done at their own expense. This is what this resident has been advised.

## **Full Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

#### **To note the unintended consequences of the blanket Tree Preservation Order on the trees near the East Park Farm estate, and to see whether there is any possibility of refining it**

It has become clear that there are self-seeded trees that have been allowed to get established, and they are making life difficult for residents who live nearby, as well as impacting on the health of the trees that were planted when the estate was built.

The clerk wondered whether it would be possible to see if these trees could be taken out where they are causing problems, and it was agreed to investigate with the help of the borough councillors. *Clerk's note: the surveyor recommended selecting a small area to put a request in for TPO work because of self-seeded trees and see how this is received.*

### **To consider whether to pursue the idea of vegetable plots in the Mendip Close area, and if so, how to progress**

It was agreed that the idea would not be pursued now because there will be some extra allotment provision on the Hicks' site if approved, and the proposed cost would be prohibitive if based on the outline from the Borough. It was agreed to revisit this in six months' time.

### **To consider whether to develop the idea of a Youth Council, and if so, how to do this**

Councillor Bennett attended training on developing a youth council. The possible approach for the Parish Council would be approach youth leaders in the village to help us engage on the topic of what facilities youth would like to see in the village – these leaders could be those involved with the Uniform groups, youth workers from Twyford and Sonning, sports coaches, and teachers – set up a meeting with them, and discuss our plans, and see what other options they might come up with, and work towards what would be most popular and feasible. The other idea would be to invite some of these youth leaders to be Amenities “special advisers” on our green spaces.

## **Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting 4th November 2024**

### **Highways**

#### **To decide on a location for the new Speed Indicator Device**

It was decided to put it on Park Lane near the mini roundabout for a short period, to measure how much local traffic there is compared to the levels of traffic when Waingels Road is open.



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

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

- 241466      Application for proposed single storey front infill extension, first floor rear infill extension, part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestrations at 36, Old Bath Road
- 241555      Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed loft conversion into habitable accommodation to include 3no dormers and 3no roof windows at 9, Balme Close
- 241654      Application for proposed erection of a front entrance gate and boundary wall at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue
- 241669      Application for the proposed erection of front boundary wall and entrance gate at Upton Cottage, Milestone Cottage
- 241651      Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 223025 for the householder application for the proposed single storey side extension, first floor rear extension following demolition of existing garage and store, and removal of existing rear dormer. Condition 2 refers to approved details and the variation is to proposed changes to the extension layout, modification to the roof, alterations to materials and changes to fenestration at 35, Park View Drive South
- 241781      Application for the proposed garage conversion, front porch extension and single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory at 109, The Hawthorns
- 242174      Application for works to protected trees TPO 42/1971 Group 1, 1852/2022 Group 1,2 and 3, 1860/2022 T1 and T2 G001, mixed species – coppice two willow stems arching over open space; crown lift low branches over open space to create 3.5m clearance for pedestrians; cut back overhang on north side to create 2m canopy to the adjacent residential property. G002, mixed species – crown lift low branches over open space to create 3.5m clearance for pedestrians; cut overhanging branches back to boundary in area of group directly opposite 9, Symonds Field at East Park Farm

**The Council commented on these applications as follows:**

241688 Application for proposed 5 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and landscaping on land next to Huckleberry, Waingels Road – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

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

*This development is in the countryside, and is situated in the fields behind the housing line on Waingels Road and Beggars Hill Road, consequently changing the character from small paddocks and fields to a more suburban feel. This will set a precedent for further encroachment into the green gap between Woodley and Charvil. In the appeal against a previous attempt to develop one of these fields, it was stated that "The appeal scheme would fail to accord with the policies that seek to protect the environment, landscape and the character and appearance of the countryside, notably Policies CP1, CP3, CP11 of the CS, TB21 of the LP, and the Framework, as well as the Borough Design Guide, 2012 which, as a general principle, establishes that new development should contribute towards the landscape character of the area." We see little difference in this application, apart from having an entrance onto Waingels Road, rather than Beggars Hill Road.*

*The application incorrectly suggests that there is little evidence of great crested newts in the area; there is a history of these on the other side of the railway, and in particular on the area south of the playing fields at East Park Farm, which is important habitat for a variety of species.*

*We are concerned that in the background information, it suggests that Waingels Road is well served by local amenities; it is not. The closest bus stops are much further than the 100m suggested in the report; there are some schools, but certainly not numerous; there are no cycle tracks nearby and many are scared of cycling on the narrow, busy road that Waingels Road is at many times of day; and it is certain that the main form of transport used would be by car, a fact implicit in this application as there will be a triple garage.*

*We would also question that this is a self-build as the applicant is a developer, and the proposal is for building on a neighbour's property.*

- 241756 Application for proposed change of use to assisted living accommodation, dementia and special needs care (Class C2) plus extension of the existing dropped kerb at 1a, Milestone Crescent - The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

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

*This is a semi-detached dwelling on the edge of the village. The proposal states there is a need for more care homes for the elderly, but this does not make a modest family home a suitable location for such provision. There is also a shortage of affordable housing in the village, and it can ill afford to lose such a home to such an inappropriate scheme.*

*The parking proposals can only work by absorbing the Wokingham Borough owned verge into the curtilage of 1, Milestone Crescent. We feel this is unacceptable and sets a dangerous precedent for other such green spaces.*

*The size and layout of the house seems at odds with both the safe care of dementia patients, with no wet rooms, ways to transport the disabled from one floor to the next etc., and also the well-being of the staff, who will have little space in which to operate, take breaks etc.*

*The dwelling is near the end of a narrow cul-de-sac with many parked vehicles and is also part of a National Cycle route. The likelihood of ambulances needing to access the dwelling is high, thereby causing a nuisance, and possible hazard for neighbours and other road users alike.*

*The Council feels that any such change of use is inappropriate in this location.*

- 242480 Application for proposed single storey front extension, and two storey rear extension, with roof light and balcony, alongside changes to existing fenestration, partial garage conversion and front garden paving at 39, St Patrick's Avenue

The clerk was asked to comment as follows: *The Parish Council notes that the application includes paving of the front garden and would like this to be permeable paving to reduce surface flooding. It also has some concerns about the Juliet balcony due to loss of privacy to the neighbouring property.*

232704 Outline application for the proposed erection of up to 75 dwellings with only access to be considered via Park Lane. Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be matters reserved on land west of Park Lane – the clerk commented as follows:

*Charvil Parish Council would like to add the following comments in relation to the documents added to the Planning Portal in September/October 2024 for this planning application*

*In relation to the reports and scans of the site for any possible geological issues, it is noted that there are several potential areas of dissolution to the south of the site, which are loosely in line with the sink holes to the east of Park Lane.*

*This has led the Council to wonder why the whole of the southern part of the site was not extensively scanned by the EM if this is where there is potential for areas of geological vulnerability.*

*In addition, the Council also wonders whether on the potential roadway into the development further investigations should have been carried out to ensure the safety of future residents, as this is very close to the sink hole that appeared to the east of Park Lane.*

*Finally on this point, would it not be responsible to scan the road for any potential areas of dissolution between the development site and the East Park Farm playing fields and Country Park?*

*In relation to how the excess water is to be dealt with on the site. There is a similar site in Shiplake (<https://shiplakevillages.com/index.php?pid=393>), which has led to untold delays and costs for this development. The Council is concerned that by releasing the excess water, albeit in a “controlled” manner, the waterway to the south of the site could be overwhelmed. It is already the case that the property to the south must take extensive measures to prevent flooding of its site currently, and this will exacerbate the problem.*

*Not only could that property be affected, but also the playing fields and car park could be vulnerable to flooding and further dissolution issues. The Council is already advised that the stream may need some dredging to ensure the northern bank remains at a stable level, and with a greater water flow, there could be a more frequent expense for both the Parish and the Borough Councils to maintain the integrity of the village facilities. This seems an unreasonable burden, and the Parish would appreciate further investigation to ensure neighbouring amenities are not compromised.*

*In relation to the proposed pedestrian crossing. The Council supports the inclusion of a crossing in the plan and support its location. However, the Council questions why this cannot be a more traditional crossing – preferably a pelican crossing, or failing that, a zebra crossing. There also needs to be a dropped kerb added at the entrance to the school, as there will be parents with pushchairs and children with scooters and bicycles crossing at that point to enter the school and East Park Farm from the new development.*

*The Parish Council welcomes the inclusion of allotments, and the areas of green space proposed, and the proposed provision of a play area, particularly if it could be an area dedicated to a teen provision.*

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

- 240757 Householder application for proposed garage conversion to create habitable accommodation with changes to the fenestration at 112, The Hawthorns
- 241076 Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to include 2no roof lanterns (one in the new part of extension and one in the existing) following demolition of the existing rear canopy at 25, Gingells Farm Road
- 241181 Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 3.92m, for which the maximum height would be 3.20m and the height of the eaves 3.00m at 94, Old Bath Road (Prior Approval not required)
- 241781 Application for the proposed garage conversion, front porch extension and single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory at 109, The Hawthorns
- 241466 Householder application for proposed single storey front infill extension, first floor rear infill extension, part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestrations at 36, Old Bath Road



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CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL TENNIS COURTS  
ENQUIRIES & REGISTRATION  
**HEAD COACH: ALEX DENOVA (LTA LEVEL 3)**  
**EMAIL: ALEX.DENOVA@BTINTERNET.COM**  
**TEL: 07738 331344**



- 241651 Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 223025 for the householder application for the proposed single storey side extension, first floor rear extension following demolition of existing garage and store, and removal of existing rear dormer. Condition 2 refers to approved details and the variation is to proposed changes to the extension layout, modification to the roof, alterations to materials and changes to fenestration at 35, Park View Drive South
- 241378 Application for the proposed ground floor front extension along with a first-floor side extension. Conversion of the garage to create habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration at 4, Gingells Farm Road
- 241090 Application for proposed single storey front extension to the existing garage at 40, Charvil House Road
- 241190 Application for proposed erection of a first-floor side extension at 45 Gingells Farm Road
- 241555 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed loft conversion into habitable accommodation to include 3no dormers and 3no roof windows at 9, Balme Close
- 240999 Application for proposed Hip to Gable loft conversion to create habitable accommodation with a front facing dormer and the insertion of 3 no. roof lights to the front elevation with changes to fenestration at 94, Milestone Avenue
- 241654 Application for proposed erection of front entrance gate and boundary wall (Retrospective) at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue
- 241669 Application for proposed erection of front boundary wall and entrance gate (part-retrospective) at Upton Cottage, Milestone Avenue
- 241386 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 1758/2020, T1, Beech – Crown lift to a height of 2.2m over footpath at Homelands, Park Lane
- 242551 Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for change of use of Unit 4 to storage and distribution (Class B8) at Unit 4, Newlands Farm
- 242552 Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for change of use of Unit 9 to storage and distribution (Class B8) at Unit 9, Newlands Farm

- 242553 Application for a certificate of existing lawful development for change of use of Unit 10 to storage and distribution (Class B8) at Unit 10, Newlands Farm
- 242554 Application to vary conditions 4 and 8 of planning consent 191788 (allowed on appeal APP/X0360/W/20/3252447) for the change of use of buildings and land from agricultural use to general industrial use plus erection of two additional buildings. Condition 4 refers to parking and turn space and condition 8 refers to restrictions on storage of materials. The variation is to allow for additional ancillary storage areas and amendments to the parking at Newlands Farm
- 242724 Application for the proposed erection of an outbuilding and boundary wall at 2, Strathmore Drive
- 241756 Application for the proposed change of use from residential to assisted living accommodation for dementia and special needs care at 1, Milestone Crescent
- 242174 APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 41/1971 GROUP 1, 1852/2022 GROUP 1, 2 and 3, 1860/2022 T1 and T2 G001 at East Park Farm Drive.

**The following application was refused by Wokingham Borough Council**

- 241039 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation with 1 no. rear facing dormer and 1 no. front facing rooflight into the existing roof, loft conversion to create habitable accommodation with 3 no. rear facing dormers, insertion of 3 no. rooflights to the front elevation at 9, Balme Close
- 241947 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent 233081 to add a roof light and change the existing roof tiles at 31, St Patrick's Avenue
- 241681 Application for non-material amendment to planning consent 223025 to allow changes to side extension layout and changes to fenestration at 35, Park View Drive South
- 240529 Application for the proposed erection of a traditional wet boathouse and creation of an associated river cutting, following demolition of the existing timber boat dock at Hallsmead Ait Island Land to north of Thames Drive Charvil
- 241688 Application for proposed 5 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and landscaping at Huckleberry, Waingels Road

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

| <b>Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2025</b>                                                                           |                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 06 January 2025                                                                                                          | Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting |
| 13 January 2025                                                                                                          | Finance Committee Meeting                  |
| <b>20 January 2025</b>                                                                                                   | <b>Full Council Meeting</b>                |
| 03 February 2025                                                                                                         | Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting |
| 10 February 2025                                                                                                         | Amenities Committee Meeting                |
| <b>24 February 2025</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Full Council Meeting</b>                |
| 03 March 2025                                                                                                            | Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting |
| 10 March 2025                                                                                                            | Amenities Committee Meeting                |
| <b>17 March 2025</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Full Council Meeting</b>                |
| 31 March 2025                                                                                                            | Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting |
| 07 April 2025                                                                                                            | Amenities Committee Meeting                |
| <b>14 April 2025</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Full Council Meeting</b>                |
| MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE.<br>RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS |                                            |

| <b>Charvil Parish Councillors</b> |                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rob Jones                         | Chair of Council                                       | <b>07752 487604</b><br><a href="mailto:Robjones@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">Robjones@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>           |
| Stephen Lucas                     | Vice Chair of Council,<br>Chair of Finance             | <a href="mailto:stephenlucas@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">stephenlucas@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>                          |
| Matt Walker                       | Chair of Amenities                                     | <b>07974 160846</b><br><a href="mailto:mattwalker@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">mattwalker@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>       |
| Lee Cripps                        | Chair of Planning,<br>Environment and<br>Highways      | 07899 905240<br><a href="mailto:leecripps@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">leecripps@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>                |
| Jane Hartley                      | Vice Chair of Amenities                                | <b>07879 427350</b><br><a href="mailto:janehartley@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">janehartley@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>     |
| Isabelle Bray                     | Chair of Staffing                                      | <b>07535 696947</b><br><a href="mailto:Isabellebray@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">Isabellebray@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>   |
| Narinder Ryatt                    | Councillor                                             | <b>07957 345652</b><br><a href="mailto:narinderryatt@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">narinderryatt@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> |
| Pat Sutcliffe                     | Chair of Complaints<br>Committee                       | <b>07788 100935</b><br><a href="mailto:patsutcliffe@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">patsutcliffe@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>   |
| Katrin Harding                    | Vice Chair of Planning,<br>Environment and<br>Highways | <b>07466 146674</b><br><a href="mailto:katrinharding@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">katrinharding@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> |
| Richard Bennett                   | Councillor                                             | <a href="mailto:richardbennett@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">richardbennett@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>                      |
| <b>Parish Council Officers</b>    |                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |
| Miranda Parker                    | Parish Clerk                                           | <b>07759 424478</b><br><a href="mailto:clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>                 |
| Amanda Burton                     | Amenities Manager and<br>Newsletter Editor             | <b>07850 234363</b><br><a href="mailto:bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>           |
| Neil Durrant                      | Admin and Social Media<br>Assistant                    | <a href="mailto:media@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk">media@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>                                        |

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Being part of the Thames Ward which covers Charvil, Sonning, Remenham, Wargrave and surrounding villages Crazies Hill, Kiln Green & Hare Hatch, we are served by three Borough Councillors, please read on for a report from each.

### **Report from Cllr Sam Akhtar**

As the festive season approaches, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all residents of Charvil for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, set intentions for the future, and, most importantly, connect with others.

For many, Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, but for some, it can be a difficult or lonely period. I encourage everyone to reach out to neighbours, friends, or anyone who might be alone at this time of year. A small gesture, whether it's a friendly chat, sharing a meal, or offering support, can make a huge difference.

### **Supporting Disadvantaged Children**

One way we can all make a difference this Christmas is by supporting Wokingham Borough Council's *Make Christmas Brighter* campaign.

### **About the Giving Tree Appeal**

For more than 25 years, the kind, generous, and thoughtful residents of Wokingham Borough have supported the Giving Tree appeal, collecting gifts for disadvantaged children in our community. For many of these children, it will be the only Christmas gift they receive.

The generosity of local people has meant thousands of gifts are purchased each year, ranging from toys, toiletries, sports equipment, electronics, clothing, and gift cards for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers.

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas, and your contributions can help make that happen. For more information on how you can donate, please visit the Wokingham Borough Council website.

### **Keeping Charvil Clean and Safe**

This year, I've continued to lead monthly litter picks across the village. These efforts have helped keep Charvil looking beautiful while fostering a strong sense of community pride. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has joined me—you are helping make a real difference! If you'd like to get involved in 2025, please let me know via [charvilmatters@gmail.com](mailto:charvilmatters@gmail.com)

I've also been working closely with Wokingham Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team to address issues affecting our village. While progress takes time, we have made strides in tackling these challenges, ensuring Charvil remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

I have been working hard across to year to carry out graffiti removal across the village and will continue to ensure our village remains graffiti free free in 2025.

### **Supporting Residents with Planning Matters**

Planning and development remain key concerns for many residents in Charvil. Alongside my fellow Conservative Councillor, Wayne Smith, I continue to work hard to support residents with planning-related issues. Whether it's providing advice on applications, raising concerns with planning officers, or advocating for the protection of our green spaces, we are here to ensure that your voice is heard.

We understand the pressures and challenges that developments can bring to a community, from infrastructure demands to changes in character. That's why we're committed to scrutinising proposals to ensure they align with local needs and priorities. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you require assistance or have concerns about planning matters—we are always happy to help.

### **A Time to Reflect**

As we look back on 2024, I am proud of what we've achieved together and grateful for the support and engagement of our community. As we prepare for 2025, I remain committed to working alongside you to address challenges and opportunities for Charvil.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported and contributed to community initiatives this year. Your efforts, whether through litter picking, volunteering, or sharing ideas, have helped strengthen our village.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Warmest Wishes, Cllr Sam Akhtar

[sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk)

### **Report from Cllr Katrin Harding**

Dear Charvil Residents,

First, I want to apologise for not writing to you in the previous edition of Charvil News and to express my sincere thanks for your support in May's local elections. My start as your councillor has been a bit unconventional – balancing council work with the exciting arrival of my son in June. While this made for a unique first few months, I've been fully committed to my role and have attended all full council meetings since my election!

These past few months have been a steep learning curve as I get to grips with my role, planning policies, and local government functions.

One of the driving forces behind my decision to stand for election was to take action on the climate emergency, and I'm proud to serve as vice-chair of the Climate Emergency Oversight and Scrutiny Committee. If you're interested in learning more about the steps Wokingham Borough Council is taking or how you can reduce your own emissions, I encourage you to visit the 'Climate Emergency Hub' on the WBC website.

One of my key priorities is improving walking and cycling options in our village. I will soon be meeting with officers to discuss ways to improve problematic junctions around the A4. If you have specific concerns or suggestions, please do get in touch.

At the time of writing, I'm preparing to address the Planning Committee regarding the application for 75 homes off Park Lane, opposite the primary school. I know that many of you have expressed concerns about the impact on congestion and local services. I will be carefully considering these points as I speak to the committee.

As many of you know, funding continues to be a significant challenge for local authorities. With the rising costs of adult and children's social care now making up the majority of our budget, tough decisions are being made to protect the financial stability of our services. I am committed to working with you all to address these challenges and to make Charvil a better place for everyone. Your voice is important – whether it's on improving local infrastructure, tackling climate change, or planning for future growth. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any thoughts, concerns, or questions.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working together.

Katrin Harding

[Katrin.harding@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Katrin.harding@wokingham.gov.uk)

07466 146 674

### **Report from Cllr Wayne Smith**

It has been six months since being elected as one of your Borough Councillors. Across the area, covering Sonning, Charvil, Remenham and Wargrave, I've had a wide range of enquiries. These range from Planning, housing issues, care requests, schooling issues, waste, building control, parking, burglaries, Police issues, neighbour issues and, most of all, highways!

### **Appeal by David Wilson Homes - Land north of the A4, New Bath Road, for 230 properties**

As you may be aware, the decision to refuse this application by Wokingham planning committee has been appealed to the planning Inspectorate.

A number of residents/bodies have recently met to discuss how the community could work together and manage the appeal. It sits within the Twyford Parish, although impacts Charvil, Wargrave and the whole A4 corridor through the borough. Twyford would be the obvious body to deal with the appeal and apply for Rule 6, which would give them a similar position at the enquiry as the barrister for WBC and David Wilson Homes.

Wargrave Parish Council decided to take up the position of RULE 6, which gave them greater input into the inquiry which started 26th November and continued on for five days. Wargrave Parish Councillor, Kevin Southworth, Project Managed the team and I applaud him for all his hard work compressed into such a short space of time! We collated all the information for the Barrister used at the appeal.

I have been contacted by many residents concerned about the overall impact of the development and how the various services/schools/roads will cope, combined with the Bridge Farm development for 187 properties which already has approval!

I fully appreciate that because I live in Wargrave residents will naturally come to me with issues, that said, I am here to help if you have any concerns

**Wayne Smith,**

**Conservative Councillor for Thames Ward**

[Wayne.smith@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Wayne.smith@wokingham.gov.uk)



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING REPORT

Make your home appear occupied this festive season!

Please don't make it easy for burglars, there are a number of free and low cost ways to make your home look occupied which could help reduce the chance of it becoming a target:

- Close your curtains and blinds
- Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door, make sure you double lock it
- Don't leave any valuables, gifts or presents on view and register them on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). It's free and if 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, please 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)
- 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 whilst you're away
- Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. For more information about schemes in your area, visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)
- Sign up to Thames Valley Alerts at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) to receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice
- Visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://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

**X:** @TVP\_Wokingham



## CHARVIL COMES TOGETHER FOR CPR TRAINING

76 local residents gathered at Charvil Village Hall on 17th October to participate in essential CPR training sessions aimed at equipping them with life-saving skills. The event, organised by Charvil Parish Council, featured two one-hour sessions that focused on recognising cardiac arrest, calling emergency services, performing hands-only CPR, and familiarisation with our community defibrillators.

Under the guidance of a registered Paramedic, participants learned how to identify the signs of a cardiac arrest and the importance of swift action in such emergencies. The sessions emphasised the critical steps of calling 999 for emergency assistance and the role of bystanders in increasing the chances of survival for victims.

Attendees practiced hands-on techniques for performing CPR, a skill that can quadruple the likelihood of survival in cardiac emergencies when used in conjunction with a community defibrillator.



Around 80% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home. We want everyone to feel empowered to act in emergencies, knowing that they have the skills to help save the life of someone they know.

Feedback from participants has been positive, with many expressing interest in further training opportunities. We hope to offer further life-saving sessions in the future, ensuring that residents remain informed and prepared for emergencies.

With 76 more residents now equipped with critical life-saving skills, Charvil is one step closer to becoming a safer and more responsive community.



You can find the locations of our Community Defibrillators by using the interactive map at:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/village>





## **New Website Launched**

On September 30th, Charvil Parish Council proudly unveiled our new website. The refreshed site promises to be more user-friendly, with a design that caters to mobile users and adheres to accessibility standards, ensuring that all members of the community can easily access vital information.

One of the most notable changes is the transition to a [.gov.uk](https://www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk) domain. This move not only enhances the website's security but also reinforces its credibility as an official local government resource. Residents can now feel assured that they are accessing accurate and secure information related to their parish.

The new website has been designed to embody the spirit of a "virtual community hub", making it easier than ever for Charvil residents to connect with local groups and clubs. Gone are the days of sifting through pages of information; the redesigned platform offers streamlined navigation that helps users quickly locate details about various community organisations. An interactive map showcasing village facilities adds an exciting visual element, allowing residents to explore local amenities with ease.

The new site provides comprehensive information about the Parish buildings and sports facilities. This ensures that residents are well-informed about the resources available to them, whether they're looking to book a venue for an event or seeking out recreational opportunities.

The updated website also features a dedicated section for the Parish Council; making it simpler to access important documents, meeting agendas, and council updates. This transparency fosters a greater sense of involvement and encourages residents to engage with their Parish Council.

A standout feature of the new site is the "What's On" calendar, which highlights upcoming local events. This calendar serves as a valuable tool for residents wanting to stay informed about community happenings, from seasonal events to council meetings, encouraging participation and helping to foster a greater community spirit.

The launch of Charvil Parish Council's new website is a significant leap forward in enhancing community engagement and accessibility. With its user-friendly design, improved security, and comprehensive resources, the website is poised to become an essential tool for residents. As Charvil continues to grow and evolve, this new digital platform will undoubtedly play a crucial role in connecting residents and enriching the community experience.

You can visit our new website at:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk>

## **NEW SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

Sid, our Speed Indicator Device, has been joined by a new partner, Cassidy!

Our second speed indicator device will help us to monitor and record speeds and traffic volume around the village. Like Sid, Cassidy can be moved around the village to various locations, and provides regular reports back to the Council via our Planning, Environments & Highways Committee.



This data can be used to highlight troublesome areas, as well as provide evidence of traffic volumes for use in commenting on Planning Applications.

## **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

### **What is “Speedwatch”?**

You may have seen the little yellow signs at various points around the village declaring this to be a “Speedwatch area” – but what does that mean?

It means that specially trained community volunteers may, from time to time, conduct speed checks on vehicles driving within our area, using equipment provided by the police and filing their findings to be entered on police computers.

The essence of the scheme is to provide feedback to drivers who are exceeding the speed limit so that they will become more aware of their speed and, hopefully, modify it to comply with safe limits in built up areas.

Speedwatch groups do not issue “tickets”, they merely report their findings to the police. The police may then choose to write to drivers who have been speeding to advise them of the fact that they have been recorded speeding.



The records are available nationwide, so further infringements anywhere in the country may trigger further warnings and, ultimately, prosecution if drivers continue to exceed speed limits.

You may ask “why does Charvil need Speedwatch?” The answer is that we have some alarming recordings from our speed indicator devices - we now have two in the village – that show vehicles speeding at up to 80+ mph on our residential streets.

Some villagers have commented that we don't need Speedwatch; that seeing the messages on the speed indicators is enough. Well, that may be so for some people, but obviously not for all.

There are now 5 members of the Charvil Speedwatch group who have completed their basic training (which is delivered online) and three sites have been approved by the police for conducting traffic observations. The next step is for the police to provide the monitoring equipment and instruction on how to use it. The group is on a waiting list for this.

If anyone would like to join the group, or for more information, please contact [patsutlieff@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:patsutlieff@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **CHARVIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESSES TO REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION STAGE**

The Charvil Neighbourhood Plan has reached a significant milestone as it advances to the Regulation 14 consultation stage in early 2025. This important phase allows residents, stakeholders, and statutory consultees to have their say on the draft plan, which outlines a vision for the future development of Charvil.

### **What is the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan?**

Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of their local areas. Charvil's plan has been in development for several years, spearheaded by the Charvil Parish Council with input from residents and local organizations. The document addresses key issues such as housing, transport, green spaces, and community infrastructure, aiming to ensure that Charvil retains its unique character while accommodating sustainable development.

## **The Significance of Regulation 14 Consultation**

Regulation 14 consultation, part of the legal process outlined in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, provides the first formal opportunity for feedback on the draft plan. The consultation typically runs for a minimum of six weeks, allowing interested parties to review the proposals and suggest amendments.

During this stage, the draft plan is shared widely with:

- Local residents and businesses.
- Adjacent parish councils.

Statutory bodies, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England.

The input gathered during this period is vital to refining the plan and ensuring it reflects the community's priorities.

## **Key Features of the Draft Plan**

The Charvil Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives are presented below;

### **Vision:**

- In 2040, the village of Charvil will have emerged as a recognisable community with an improved quality of life for all its residents. It will have high quality, sustainable housing. The semi-rural nature of the village will remain and local green space and heritage assets will be protected and enhanced. People will walk and cycle more using new cycling and pedestrian routes in a safer road network. Charvil will be a resilient sustainable community which mitigates the effects of climate change and flooding. Delivery of the Vision will result in a stronger and more cohesive community.

### **Objectives:**

- To Protect and Enhance Green Space: Green spaces, waterways and countryside will be maintained and developed as a valued resource for Charvil. This will encourage a broad range of recreation and contribute to well-being by providing accessible routes to facilities, including for sports, walking, cycling and nature-based vistas. The natural habitat will support a broad diversity of thriving flora, fauna and fungi coexisting sustainably with all new housing developments.
- To Improve Housing Choice: Charvil will become a recognisable community, improving the quality of life for all its residents through the provision of the right mix of high quality, sustainable accommodation.

- **To Stimulate Walking and Cycling:** Charvil will improve the quality of life for its residents by mitigation of the adverse impacts of road traffic and successfully promoting active travel through provision of new integrated infrastructure including dedicated pathways and cycleways and public transport options. Road safety will be improved by the adoption of appropriate mitigations of traffic speeding and noise. Road safety will be increased for local children with the provision of defined walking and cycling routes to and from local schools
- **To improve Community Resilience:** Charvil will help prevent any flooding in existing or future housing developments by maintaining local information on flooding to inform planning applications. It will increase community resilience through a re-established flood warden network and village flood response plan. It will proactively look to promote solar and other renewable energy sources in new developments.
- **To Build a Sustainable Community:** Residents will use the opportunities presented by neighbourhood planning to strengthen the community in Charvil. The nature of the village and its sense of community is challenged by many of the issues identified in the previous themes. Ensure sustainability is at the heart of all development opportunities and plans.

Specific draft policies to address the above objectives and to enable the vision will be presented in the draft version presented at Regulation 14 consultation.

### **Next Steps**

After the Regulation 14 consultation concludes, the feedback will be reviewed, and the plan may be amended accordingly. The revised document will then proceed to the Regulation 16 consultation, managed by the local planning authority, before being examined by an independent inspector. If approved, it will be put to a community referendum, where residents can vote to adopt the plan.

### **How to Participate**

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the consultation by:

- Reading the draft plan, available on the Charvil Parish Council website.
- Attending public meetings or drop-in sessions organized by the Parish Council.
- Submitting feedback via email or through designated submission forms.

This is a crucial opportunity for the people of Charvil to contribute to shaping the future of their community. Active participation will help ensure that the final plan truly represents the aspirations and values of its residents.

The Regulation 14 consultation is a stepping stone towards a future where Charvil can grow sustainably while preserving its cherished heritage and character.

## **CHARVIL CONSERVATION GROUP**

The first session of the Charvil Conservation Group took place on the 9th November with seven volunteers attending.

In preparation for the planting of an additional six fruit trees in the Community Orchard in Hawthorns Park, the volunteers removed large overhanging branches from neglected hazel stools to open up the ground below.

Bramble and snowberry was also cleared to make space behind existing fruit trees for planting of the new trees.

The Charvil Conservation Group is part of Econet and meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10am - 1pm. The next session is scheduled for the 11th January.

For more information, including how to get involved, visit:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/directory/charvil-conservation-group>

## **TREE PLANTING**

Braving the weather in early December, Parish Councillors and Officers planted 40 new trees around Charvil.

The damaged tree outside the Village Hall was replaced, along with a new silver birch on the Mound at East Park Farm.

We planted a lime to replace the one that needed to be felled at the rear of Vale View and a new rowan.



Around a dozen hedging plants were planted along the East Park Farm car park border on Park Lane and around 25 hawthorn whips were planted to fill the Pavilion service road.

If you want to find out more information or get involved in future projects, please contact [clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY ORCHARD YEAR FOUR

Charvil's Community Orchard is located next to the play area behind the Village Hall.



In 2021 and 2022, we planted 6 trees per year. Last year, we planted twelve. Unfortunately, we did not count on exceptionally wet and mild weather last winter, which meant that the young trees had more to bargain with than in a normal winter, when they can quietly get themselves settled into their new environment, so some have not survived the year.

Undeterred, we have planted a further six this year, but higher up the slope, in the hope that there will be less danger of waterlogging. These include a medlar, a plum, a pear and three more apple trees.

We thank the sponsors of the trees we have planted since 2021, and hope that next year, there is some lovely fruit to enjoy from the first twelve planted.

## CHARVIL COUNTRY PARK

Over the last months significant path improvements have been made, in particular around the north end of Canberra lake (route to Twyford) which was a welly-only route for most of last winter and spring. Thanks to Andy Church and the Charvil Fishing Society, supported by WBC Countryside



Services. The path to the anglers' car park is also much improved and has become the default (sport!) buggy route to pre-school for us! The initial work was undertaken by the countryside volunteers- if you're interested in joining the regular Wednesday volunteers who help out across the borough's country parks email [countryside@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@wokingham.gov.uk)

You may also have seen some of the recent dramatic willow clearing in Canberra Lake and the Heronry (lake near the Heron on the Ford). This will



allow the expansion of reed beds which create an excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife. Reedbeds also help improve water quality of the lakes by cleaning, filtering and purifying the water. Due to the recent high water levels, work to clear the willows has been paused, and is expected to complete in February.

Katrin Harding, Environment Lead, Charvil Parish Council

## **CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL**

Charvil Village Hall is at the heart of our community, serving as a space for gatherings, events, and activities. It offers a perfect balance of accessibility in semirural surroundings, making it ideal for residents of all ages to come together.

It is a hub for village activities including fitness classes and craft groups to family celebrations and community meetings, the hall is always buzzing with activity with over 30 community groups routinely using it. This means that on average the main Hall is used 6 hours a day and the Committee room for 3 hours a day, a total of over 3000 hours a year!

The Charvil Village Hall is an important community asset the Parish Council is keen to keep it in good order. So, this is what we have done this year:

- Resurfacing of the floor of the main hall - our contractors did an excellent job and it will just need resealing in about three years – this should preserve the floor for at least another nine years – not bad seeing as it has been down for 30 years!
- Replacement of the 30 year old water heater that services the toilet facilities - a smaller but more efficient and cost effective boiler was installed as the old one had failed.
- Repainting and general maintenance of the exterior of the village hall – all the facias and soffits were re-painted to preserve the wood, the steps were re-pointed and edges highlighted and the hand rail to the side of the steps sanded and repainted.

The interior redecoration is planned for the Christmas holidays when the hall is quieter so as not to impact on regular groups.

Looking to the next financial year we are hoping to resurface and remark spaces in the car park.

With this programme of on-going repair and scheduled maintenance we expect the Village Hall to keep its place as an essential asset for Charvil. For more information please visit [www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/hall](http://www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/hall) or contact [bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Jane Hartley, Village Hall Lead, Charvil Parish Council

## **EAST PARK FARM FACILITIES**

The Pavilion and sports facilities in East Park Farm continue to be well used and are home to many local uniform groups, teams and clubs. The building is well maintained and an upgrade to the heating in the main hall section is scheduled to go ahead in the coming weeks.

The Annual Family Tennis passes continue to be popular and between the holders of the pass and the tennis coaching provision, the courts are in regular use. In addition to the recently installed new nets and winders, we have repaired the fencing around the Tennis courts. Sadly repairs to the nets was due to damage caused by individuals climbing over into the courts. This is a cost which can be avoided and unfortunately has a direct impact on your precept due to the actions of these individuals. A reminder tennis passes can be obtained from the Parish Council upon request to [bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk)

You may have noticed that some of the wooden post and rail fencing around the pitches on East Park Farm is broken and a number of panels require repair. The Parish Council are currently considering a number of different options to replace the fencing as soon as possible, in the meantime any areas that are beyond repair will be removed.

In supporting the Charvil Primary School the MUGA continues to be used exclusively by the pupils during the school hours, in the autumn and winter terms, helping reduce the wear and tear on the school field during the wetter months. In addition to this, we have agreed a section of the East Park Farm field be used for school football matches during the football season.

As mentioned in the Chariman's Foreword, the playground at East Park Farm requires significant repair, and the Parish Council are taking this as an opportunity to complete refurbish the playground with updated equipment which will be more inclusive for all. Any suggestions or comments as to what you'd like to see included in the playground, please do share these with the Clerk via email: [clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **CHARVIL VILLAGE FETE 2024**

We hope you enjoyed the Charvil Village Fete on Sunday, 1 September 2024, it was another fantastic day filled with fun, community spirit, and support for local causes. Here's a look back at the highlights and achievements from the event!

### **Community Connections**

We had a wonderful turnout again this year, with around 750 people overall coming together for an afternoon of games, entertainment, and good food. It was great to see familiar faces, new friends, and families enjoying everything the fete had to offer.

### **Event Highlights**



#### **Stalls and Vendors**

The fete featured around 20 stalls showcasing local crafts, homemade goodies, and delicious treats from five food vendors.

This year's bake sale was a delightful new addition, thanks to the efforts of some talented students from Piggott Secondary School. We also had a creative stall run by two enthusiastic primary school students – a big shoutout to them!



### **Games and Competitions**

The raffle, always a crowd-pleaser, was back, along with some friendly sporting competitions in tennis and football that brought out everyone's competitive side.



### **Entertainment**

Local band *Side Project* brought a festival vibe to the fete with their live performances, keeping visitors entertained until the very end. And, of course, the bouncy castles were a huge hit with the kids, giving parents a chance to relax and enjoy the day.



### **Community Engagement**

We were thrilled to have Clive Jones, the newly elected Liberal Democrat MP, join us. He spent time visiting the charity stalls and learning about their amazing work.

The classic car display by the Berkshire & District Classic Car Club added a touch of nostalgia but saw fewer visitors than hoped.

### **Funds Raised**

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised approximately **£1,000** for local charities – Local food banks, Cowshed, First Days, Animal rescue, – a fantastic achievement that matches last year's total! It's heartwarming to see the community come together to support such meaningful causes.

### **Thank You!**

A massive *thank you* to all the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who made this day possible. Your hard work and enthusiasm are what make this event so special.

### **Looking Ahead and can you help out?**

The fete isn't just about raising funds – it's about bringing our community closer. With the success of this year's event, we're already looking forward to next year! We are always looking for volunteers either with planning or on the day, please contact me if you think you can help in any way (Tel: 07879 427350).

Here's what's next:

- AGM 8pm on 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Wee Waif.
- Start preparations for next year's fete, with a tentative date of Sunday, 7 September 2025.

Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see you again next year!

## CHARVIL'S NEW 850 BUS SERVICE: A Game-Changer for local travel

As someone passionate about public transport, I'm a bit embarrassed to admit that it took me over three years of living here to board a bus in Charvil. Until September, our bus service ran infrequently and only during limited hours. But thanks to the improved 850 service, now operated by Carousel, we now have three buses an hour on weekdays, evening services, and even a Sunday bus!



Since my first trip on the 850 to Henley, we haven't looked back. Having a baby who hates the car definitely makes it a more attractive option, but there is a lot for everyone.

### Our favourite journeys so far:

- **Charvil – Henley on Thames:** A fantastic option for avoiding the hassle of parking and the trek to Twyford station. Plus, the bus drops you off closer to the town centre, though further from the toddler mecca that is the Mill Meadows playground and River and Rowing Museum. Note that while the app's live times are useful, they sometimes don't account for heavy traffic around Henley, which can cause delays.
- **Charvil – Reading Station:** The introduction of the new bus lane along London Road into Reading has had its challenges, but I've been pleasantly surprised. Perhaps I was lucky but found it very easy to get the 8:38am on time from Chiltern Drive and arrive at Reading station on a Thursday before 9am.
- **Twyford – Charvil:** This is our most frequent journey, usually home from pre-school with my toddler loving the bus ride- especially ringing the stop bell.

### Fares and Ticketing

From January 1st, the national fare cap will increase to £3 per single journey (currently £2). However, shorter journeys between Charvil and Twyford are still cheaper with a single at £1.50 and return ticket costing £2.30. A day pass for any journeys between Reading and Wargrave is £5.20. There are also weekly and monthly passes available for regular users. If you are reading this before 21<sup>st</sup> December, take advantage of free bus travel starting within Wokingham Borough on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

### Using the Carousel App

The Carousel app is incredibly handy for checking bus times. While delays can occur due to traffic, the live updates give you peace of mind that you haven't missed your bus.

## **How You Can Help**

The 850 is a commercial service, so its future depends on us – the users. If you enjoy this improved service, consider making it one of your regular modes of transport. More passengers mean more reasons to keep the service running at this great frequency.

Timetable link:

<https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/carouselbuses/CSLB/850-timetable-20240901-96f23393.pdf>

## **The Other Service**

I have been waxing lyrical about the 850 (Reading-High Wycombe), but we do still have the 128/129 service run by Thames Valley Buses between Reading and Wokingham and the mythical Saturday 127 service to Maidenhead via Wargrave. I haven't used this as much, but often see the buses when walking to/from Twyford. This service is financially supported by the council, and ambition is to increase the frequency to twice an hour subject to funding being available or demonstration of sufficient demand.

Katrin Harding

## **KEEPING CHARVIL A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

We must note our fantastic litter picker Keith and village Warden Tim for doing a brilliant job in making and helping to make Charvil a great place to live. We thank them for the graffiti removal, addressing any issues with play parks and benches. They have also been key to help replace the broken bench at East Park Farm.

Without their help, dedication and desire to help Charvil we couldn't say it is a truly great place to live.

## **THE “RIVERWAYS FARM” PLANNING APPEAL**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November saw the opening day of the Appeal against Wokingham Borough Council's refusal to grant planning permission to David Wilson Homes to build 230 houses on the Site of Riverways Farm (also known to locals as “The Egg Box” or “The Chicken Farm”).

Although the site is not within the boundaries of Charvil Parish, it is close, and the objections include arguments that the development could profoundly influence local road travel, safety of village children travelling to and from the Piggott School in Wargrave Road, risk of flooding, provision of water and sewage services, pressure on Twyford station (and the related parking issues), air quality, the future of local wildlife (including some protected species), not to mention pressure on local health and education facilities.

It is particularly relevant when considered in relation to the development of Bridge Farm on the opposite side of the A4, which has already been granted permission for 200 dwellings.

A group of people, including a Borough Councillor, some parish councillors from the 3 affected parishes of Wargrave, Twyford and Charvil and several interested residents formed a group called “Stop the 230” to fight the appeal. Having collected as much evidence as possible to support their case, individuals from the group attended the appeal hearing and made representations about their concerns to the inspector conducting the hearing.

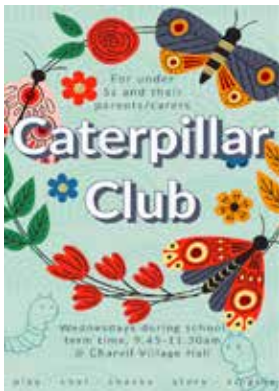
Barristers representing the Developers, Wokingham BC planning department and the Stop the 230 group all argued their respective cases to the inspector over the ensuing days and cross-examined professional witnesses.

A site visit and tour of the local villages and their facilities was made by the inspector and interested parties on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the hearing officially closed on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately, there will be quite a long wait, until February 2025, for the inspector’s decision to become known.

Cllr Pat Sutcliffe

## CATERPILLAR CLUB



Caterpillar Club, a toddler group run by volunteers, provides a space for children to play and friendships and connections to be made. We welcome parents, grandparents and carers and their children 0-4 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Any updates or for further information find us on [www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub).

## 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.

Last term we enjoyed another interesting and varied programme of suggested topics. As we are a Club rather than a 'class', members are free to try out the various topics using any style or medium. Although we also occasionally invite a guest tutor, where we then follow their lead. One unusual topic this term was 'Material Mountains', which was held as a 'tutorial' evening. We used material, which we loosely dropped onto our tables until it formed shapes like a 'mountain'. We then drew the 'mountain' (with various degrees of success!). It sounds a bit odd, but was surprisingly fun to try out, and helped us look differently at textures and shapes. (It turned out that the more crumpled the material the better the 'mountain'! A good tip for another time...?)

We also held our annual Exhibition in November, which was very successful. Many thanks to everyone who supported the exhibition, both members of the Group and the public. It is always interesting, including for members of the Art Group themselves to see, all in one place, the wide range of art on display, both in terms of style, mediums and subject matter.



Our term in the New Year starts on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. So if you are interested in Art or are already an artist 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 Chair - Hilary Kaye – 07929 664191 for further info.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year! Happy painting!

## CHARVIL WINE CIRCLE

Charvil Wine Circle was started over 30 years ago when Charvil Village Hall was first built. We meet once a month in the village hall for the enjoyment and appreciation of wine. With a mix of professional and member presentations, a varied programme is achieved throughout the year, tasting wines from such diverse regions as Bulgaria and Brazil. As well as the enjoyment of wine, we are a social group and in addition to our monthly meetings, we have a summer and a winter party.

For further information please contact Pam on 07884 485213 or by email at [pam.livesey@gmail.com](mailto:pam.livesey@gmail.com).



## CHARVIL VILLAGE QUIZ

**Friday 07 February 2025:** Charvil Village Hall at 7:30 pm (8pm prompt start)

Details and bookings through Mark A'Bear –



[markabe@btinternet.com](mailto:markabe@btinternet.com)

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Charity raffle

£7.00 per person (teams of 8)

Early booking essential

As well as a social event, the Charvil Quiz raises money for local charities. Two charities are normally selected by the quiz team with all profits from tickets and the raffle donated to the worthy causes.

## TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2025

The TRHA will be celebrating their 70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary this year and have programmed a bumper year of events.

The AGM, on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, will be followed by a short talk by Diana Loyd of Hedgehog Friendly Twyford. Come along for a glass of wine and you may be tempted to become an active member of this go-ahead organisation.

The refurbished Store in Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, RG10 9JA, re-opens on 2nd February 2025. Seed potatoes will be on sale to Members as well as the usual horticultural supplies at competitive prices.

There will be a Potato Planting event, for children, at the Store on 16th March.

The Show Schedule, which is delivered to all members, has been expanded and includes new Classes. The Spring Show will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and will be “Open” to allcomers. Some Classes will be professionally judged and there will be People’s Vote Classes as usual.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, prior to the Spring Show, TRHA are thrilled to have been invited to host the **BBC Radio 4 programme “Gardener’s Question Time”**. This will be held at Loddon Hall, Twyford. Look out for further details in the press, on the website [www.trha.org.uk](http://www.trha.org.uk), and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/gardeningintwyford](https://www.facebook.com/gardeningintwyford).

To enjoy TRHA activities to the full extent become a Member for only £8.00 per household per annum; £7.00 for Seniors. TRHA Members receive a monthly Newsletter, either printed, or electronically, with all the news and a programme of events. For details please email the Membership Secretary, Jenny Wager at [trhamembership@gmail.com](mailto:trhamembership@gmail.com), or come along to the Store in February.

## BERKSHIRE GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS AND DYERS

The Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers is a very friendly group that meets on the third Saturday of every month at Charvil Village Hall from 10:30 to 4:30.



As well as the core skills we do all kinds of crafts and techniques, mostly based on fibres and textiles.

There are also fortnightly meetings of a spinning group and a weaving group.



You are very welcome to join us and see what we do.

Find out more on our website

at <https://www.bswd.org.uk> for details and contact information.

## SINGING GROUP FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS IN CHARVIL

Alzheimer's Society's Singing for the Brain brings people affected by dementia together in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

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

The Charvil Singing for the Brain group meets at Charvil Village Hall on the first and third Thursday of every month, 2pm – 3.30pm.

To find out more about support available, including Singing for the Brain, please contact Alzheimer's Society on 0118 959 64 82

or email: [Berkshire@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Berkshire@alzheimers.org.uk)



# Singing for the Brain Charvil

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

2pm - 3.30pm

Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane,  
Charvil RG10 9TR

Join our Singing for the Brain group and meet new people in a friendly, fun and social environment.

Singing improves your brain activity, wellbeing and mood, and you don't need to be a good singer to benefit. Join us for fun vocal warm-ups and sing a wide variety of familiar and new songs.

To book your place please contact Annabell

Tel: 01189596482

Email: [Annabell.Kirby@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Annabell.Kirby@alzheimers.org.uk)



**Alzheimer's  
Society**

Together we are help & hope  
for everyone living with dementia



Registered charity no. 296645. Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

# Boost your digital skills at free library sessions



Wokingham Borough Council is offering digital skills sessions at local libraries, providing hands-on support to residents with their technological queries.

Led by friendly volunteers, these sessions are free to attend and are designed to help everyone improve their digital literacy and confidence in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Digital skills sessions last for an hour and a half and cover a wide range of topics, which can be tailored to meet the needs of the individual, with no need to book in advance.

You can learn more about:

-  Using a phone, laptop or tablet
-  How to print and scan
-  Using the library Wi-Fi
-  Creating CVs

Whether you are looking to learn how to use WhatsApp, find bus timetables, navigate PressReader or get the most out of your Kindle or iPad, the volunteers are happy to help.

Sessions are currently running at:

-  Twyford Library: First Friday of every month, from 10am to 11.30am
-  Woodley Library: First Monday of the month and the first Thursday of every month, from 10am to 11.30am
-  Lower Earley Library: Second Tuesday of every month and the fourth Monday of every month, from 10am to 11.30am

## READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

The Reading & District Cigarette Card & Postcard Club began life after the end of WW2 when local collectors met occasionally in other fellow collector's homes in Reading, Henley & Twyford. The main interest was swapping, buying and selling cigarette cards, coins, banknotes, and postcards. With a growing membership a larger local meeting place was required and Polehampton Junior School became the venue in the 1970's, followed by Loddon Hall, Twyford, the Rugby Club in Sonning Lane, St. Patrick's Church Hall, Charvil, finally happily settling into Charvil Village Hall. At one time membership was ninety plus, sadly the membership has dwindled to around 30, with no members below the age of fifty. The covid lockdown resulted in the loss of collector's fairs throughout the country, and the hobby like many other similar interests, has never recovered. However, the interest still exists, and we would love to hear from anyone with similar interests, it could appeal to local areas historians or family history enthusiasts. The Club no longer organise Fairs, but we still hold meetings at Charvil Hall on the second Thursday evening of each month (excluding January), from 7-30pm to 10.00pm (normally finishing at 9:30pm) Evenings consist of members interests, recent 'finds', cigarette card and postcard auctions, and general swapping of information and knowledge. Local area interest is highly prized, and postcards can form a worthwhile facet of Family History & Local History interests.

The Club would be delighted to hear from any local residents who wish to dispose of their unwanted and uncherished cigarette cards or pre 1950 postcards in one of our Quarterly Auctions. (Please telephone 0118 969511).

Roy Sheppard



The images above are original postcard scans showing the Wee Waif Restaurant and petrol station, (circa 1930's).

## THE PROJECT SINGERS



This term has been spent working on some fantastic festive songs for a concert at Charvil Hall on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Songs have included 'Hush be still', 'Winter wonderland of snow', 'Sending you a little Christmas', 'Light a candle on this silent night' and 'As long as there's Christmas'. The choir are also doing some carol singing in the area and we are very excited at being asked to sing at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Twyford this year.

Our next project is 'As long as there's music' which is a special project to celebrate my 35<sup>th</sup> year of running the choirs in Charvil. We will be working on some of my favourite songs including a medley from 'Les Miserables', 'Out here on my own' and 'Cross the wide Missouri'. We will be working towards a concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on March 29<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to see any former choir members and their families at this – tickets are available from the Box Office at Norden Farm. The ladies' section will also be taking part in Cheltenham Music Festival. The girls' section will be taking part in Let's Sing Reading 2025 at The Hexagon and sharing a concert with the Reading A440 choir.

We have a few spaces for this project so if you would like more details, please get in touch. The ladies' section rehearses on Mondays between 8.00 and 9.30pm. The girls' section is for 10 – 18 year olds with rehearsals on Sundays between 6.15 and 7.45pm.

### Queen smash hits!

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, we have a fun singing afternoon for female voices at Charvil Hall. We will be working on three great Queen songs arranged for 2-part choir – 'Crazy little thing called love', 'Don't stop me now' and 'We are the champions'. This is £12 which includes music and refreshments. Open to anyone who loves singing! Places need to be booked and paid for in advance.

Suzanne Newman / [suzanneynewman@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanneynewman@btinternet.com)

## SAX BANDITS



Sax Bandits is an all-saxophone band for adults of all ages and abilities, from learners to returners. They meet once a month to play fun rock and pop songs - from Spice Girls to Muse to Madness!

It's the perfect place to meet like-minded saxophonists and enjoy making music together.

One of the standout moments for Sax Bandits this year was their exciting performance at **Fawley Hill Steam & Vintage Festival** where over 100 saxophones came together in a high-energy set that earned spirited applause and demands for an encore.



This year also marked the band's first **Battle of the Bands** event, which was held in Twyford. Their six smaller local bands came together to compete in a fun and friendly musical showdown, offering band members a chance to showcase their musical achievements to family and friends.

As the festive season approaches, the band is excited to perform at the **Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar on Monday 16th December**. They will treat an unsuspecting audience to a surprise set of Christmas songs, set against the majestic backdrop of Windsor Castle. This will be the band's first time at the event and they're thrilled to spread some holiday cheer!

Beyond their public performances, Sax Bandits meet monthly at various locations, including Charvil Village Hall. In January, they will **launch their seventh band location near Binfield, Bracknell**. This exciting new chapter reflects the band's growing popularity and their commitment to offering more opportunities for local saxophonists to get involved.

If you play the saxophone and are interested in finding out more about the band, please visit their website for more information: [www.saxbandits.co.uk](http://www.saxbandits.co.uk)

## THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF READING MAIDEN ERLEGH

The Inner Wheel club of Reading Maiden Erlegh invited Richard Davies, from the Woodley food bank, to speak at their November meeting. To add to the evening members of the club brought along many items of food which were then fashioned into, and decorated to make a Christmas tree. The food was taken, at the end of the meeting, by Richard for distribution to those families in the Woodley and surrounding areas who are struggling to feed their families.



The photograph shows the tree with Richard and two members of Inner Wheel, Kathy Shaw and Noreen Calnan who are members of Inner Wheel but who also volunteer at the food bank.

Reading Maiden Erlegh Inner Wheel meets on the third Thursday of the month at Sonning Golf Club. To find about more about Inner Wheel visit the website <https://innerwheel.co.uk> or look on Facebook at [innerwheelclubofreadingmaidenerlegh](https://www.facebook.com/innerwheelclubofreadingmaidenerlegh) or by emailing [iwcrme@gmail.com](mailto:iwcrme@gmail.com).

## **Building Connections and Enhancing Lives with The Link Visiting Scheme**

Have you ever thought about volunteering? Life is busy and demanding and for many it's hard to think about finding time to do an extra thing. But what if you knew that by carving out a couple of hours once a week or once a fortnight to volunteer would yield amazing benefits to you?

Perhaps it's not the main reason we put our hand up to offer our help but there is scientific evidence that volunteering has a positive impact on your mental health, it lowers our risk of low mood and increases well-being. The social connections formed through volunteering provide a sense of belonging and purpose which are vital for mental health.

Volunteering can act as a buffer against stress and studies have shown that volunteers tend to have lower blood pressure and a reduced risk of heart disease, a stronger immune system and faster recovery from illness!

At The Link Visiting Scheme we connect volunteers with older people who would love to see a friendly face, have some good conversation and maybe an opportunity to go out for a coffee. These simple things are in fact life changing as we realise we are not forgotten or invisible.



Feeling trapped in loneliness can leave us feeling helpless and stuck. At Link Visiting we recognise the seriousness of this struggle and tirelessly endeavor to unlock the transformative power of friendship.

We understand that everyone's schedule is unique, so we tailor volunteer opportunities to suit individual preferences, ensuring flexibility in timing. Our comprehensive support system includes ongoing training and assistance, empowering volunteers every step of the way.

Whether you're a parent with young children, a full-time employee, retired or someone wanting to make some positive changes to your life, we would love to hear from you.

If you're interested in making a difference and joining our community, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us and learn more about how you can get involved. We eagerly await to hear from you!

Marjie Walker – The Link Visiting Scheme

[www.linkvisiting.org](http://www.linkvisiting.org)

[marjie@linkvisiting.org](mailto:marjie@linkvisiting.org)

0118 9798019





“

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stay in my home

”

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Bluebird Care Reading & Wokingham

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[reading@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto: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](http://bluebirdcare.co.uk/live-in-care)*



your life  
your home  
your care  
your way



**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