



CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter
Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 1

February, 2003

Welcome to the first issue of Char Chat, your Parish Council Newsletter.

If you would like to contribute to our June issue, please contact Liz Daros, The Limes, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NH (01297 560459) or Trevor Chambers, Tresillian, Morcombelake, Bridport DT6 6DY (01297 489349)

In this first edition we have provided:

- dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in 2003;
- a list of contact names and numbers of Parish Council members and other officials;
- information about the Parish Council and the forthcoming elections of Parish Council Members; details of our new *web site*.

If you live within the above group of parishes, then *Char Chat* is your Parish Council Newsletter.

The Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) has statutory responsibilities and an important role within local government; it is the official 'grass roots'. We would like to develop this role and encourage residents to become more involved in what's happening in our locality.

Your feedback from the Char Valley Parish Council Community Survey 2002 told us that you would like more information about the work of the Parish Council and information on its members. You also wanted to know what's happening in and around the parish and whom to contact.

This newsletter aims to respond to those requests.

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- information about the Parish Council and the forthcoming elections of Parish Council Members;
- details of our new *web site*.

We hope to produce at least two Newsletters per year - one in January/February and one in June/July. We intend to include:

- regular reports from the Parish Council;
- updates on the progress of the various groups working on matters raised in the Community Survey 2002;
- information on local clubs, societies and groups with contact names for those interested in joining;
- dates and venues of forthcoming events;
- features on local activities;
- information about local services: nurseries, crèches, library etc.;

So, if you are a frustrated paparazzi or have always wanted to see your name in print - or have ideas on what to include in the Newsletter - we would like to hear from you. It doesn't have to be perfect - we'll be happy to edit!

Please contact either Liz Daros, The Limes, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NH (01297 560459) or Trevor Chambers, Tresillian, Morcombelake, Bridport DT6 6DY (01297 489349) with for our June issue or, better still, why not email us on either esd@bryanston.com or trevorchambers@compuserve.com?

Web Site

We are setting up the official Char Valley Parish Council web site.

On it you will find facilities for:

- Feedback - to let us know what you think about the web site and this Newsletter;
- Searching - to help you find the information you need on the web site;

Watch this space in future editions for news of the site. The web address will be www.charvalleypc.co.uk

Have you ever wished you could have your say on local issues?

Have you considered standing for election to the Parish Council?

Elections are planned for May 2003.

See over for more information.

What can Parish Councils do?

A parish council can do anything, provided it is for the general benefit of the community, and that its expenditure in any one year does not exceed £3.50 per local government elector in that particular parish or community

While the Council enjoys a wide range of powers, it has virtually no *duties* in terms of provision of local services to the communities. However, Parish Councils can deliver a range of local services using their permissive powers such as, for example:-

- run village halls and community centres, provide community buses, support for the elderly and facilities for the young.
- support housing associations in providing homes for local people or grant-aid a host of voluntary organisations providing local community facilities.
- provide information points offering advice on jobs, housing and access to other agencies' information services. It can care for the local environment through projects to improve the physical environment of their area.

The Council can consult with its communities and represent their views to other agencies. It is the most local tier of government and plays a vital part in the life of the communities it represents.

Parish councils are funded via local rates thus providing a means of accountability to the local community. However, a council's financial powers can be very limited. The Char Valley parish council's precept, for example, is small because of the low density of population in the area. The council accordingly takes great care in selecting what it can support financially.

To find out more about what Parish Councils can do, visit the DAPCT web site: www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Did you know that....

In 2002 the Parish Council:

- reviewed 48 planning applications;
- contributed 50% of the cost of grass cutting to the six Parochial Church Councils;
- paid for the maintenance of Whitchurch Canonorum playground and Wootton Fitzpaine's playground and field;
- spent £495 on repairs and replacements of Notice Boards in the parish, having a new one made for Fishponds and planning to get a new one for the bottom of Stonebarrow Lane;
- made a number of donations to various organisations, to include £50 to the Dorset Air Ambulance and £50 to the DCC for Arts Week;
- contributed towards Homewatch Schemes in the parish;
- has an estimated budget of £12,140 in the financial year to April 2003, having an approved precept of £8,500.

In January 2003, the Parish Council plans to adopt the Freedom of Information Act.

Dates for the diary

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2003

13 th January 2003	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
10 th February 2003	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall
10 th March 2003	Morcombelake URC Hall
14 th April 2003	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
12 th May 2003	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting	
9 th June 2003	Morcombelake URC Hall
21 st July 2003	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
August 2003	No Meeting
15 th September 2003	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall
13 th October 2003	Morcombelake URC Hall
17 th November 2003	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

December 2003 No Meeting

NB All Parish Council meetings start at 7.30pm and are open to the public and many have presentations by members of the parish about local issues. Do come along and make your voice heard.

Community Survey 2002

In 2002 the group Parish Council undertook a major community survey. The survey forms the first stage of gathering information to create Action Plans for our grouped and individual parishes. If you would like a printable copy of the survey responses, go to www.charvalleyipc.co.uk and click 'Response to Questionnaire' or, if you do not have access to the internet, contact your local Councillor to receive a printed version.

Community Groups, Clubs and Societies, Church Councils, Youth Groups, interested individuals and the Parish Councillors will put the Action Plans together. Many of you ticked a box on the survey to say that you would be interested in helping to develop the action plans. If you have not already been contacted, someone will be in touch soon. If you did not tick the box but would be willing to provide assistance in any way, then please contact Anthea Bay (01308 868036) or Elizabeth Fortescue (01297 560800) for more information.

New groups already started include

- **Local history/heritage** group led by Mrs Sylvia Creed-Castle (01297 489064);
- **Ancient hedgerows and fauna** groups led in Wootton Fitzpaine by Philippa Fortescue (01297 442181) and in Whitchurch, Morcombelake and Ryall by Alan Ashpool (01297 489347);

Elections 2003

Local Authority elections are held every four years. West Dorset District Council has redrawn our Ward boundaries as follows:

1. Whitchurch Canonorum North (Whitchurch Canonorum, Fishpond, Abbotts Wootton and the Vale) will elect four councillors.
2. Whitchurch Canonorum South (Morcombelake, Ryall and the community around the slopes of Hardown Hill) will elect four councillors.
3. Wootton Fitzpaine (Wootton Fitzpaine, Monkton Wyld and Fern Hill) will elect three councillors.
4. Stanton St Gabriel (Stanton St Gabriel, part Morcombelake and Stonebarrow Lane) will elect one councillor.

If you would like to stand for election, visit the DAPTC website at www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk or contact Mike Hickman, Electoral Registration Officer at West Dorset District Council.

Vox Pops

We asked a number of people from the parish what they thought the Newsletter might be called.

Suggestions given are as follows:

- Char Chat
- Char Valley Chat
- Char Valley Views
- Char Valley Voice

What do you think? Or do you have another suggestion?

Please Give Liz (01297 560459) or Trevor (01297 489349) a call and let us know your views.

The Parish Council will make a final decision on the name at the March meeting.

Contact Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Char Valley Parish Council Members

Representing Whitchurch Canonorum

Mrs A C BAY (Chair)	Stoke Mill Farm, Broadoak, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NR	01308 868036
Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mr R COOK	Hillside Home, Ryall, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EG	01297 489695
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500
Mr P G WHITE	7 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 498128
Miss B BRISCOE	Stoncroft, Fishpond, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NN	01297 678203

Representing Wootton Fitzpaine

Mr D V RICHARDS (Vice Chair)	The Old Coach House, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NF	01297 560933
Mrs E J FORTESCUE	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wyld, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464

Representing Stanton St Gabriel

Mrs Y BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
Mr V G DIMENT	Peter Pan, The Green, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EA	01297 489636

Other Representatives

Rights Of Way Officers

Mr D V RICHARDS	The Old Coach House, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NF	01297 560933
Mr & Mrs J BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
Mr & Mrs D NEWMAN	Peal House, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RH	01297 489781

Tree Officer

Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500
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Ancient Monuments Officer

Mrs S CREED CASTLE	Crabbs Bluntshay Cottage, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, DT6 6RN	01297 489064
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Transport Representative

Mrs Y BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
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DAPTC Representatives

Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wyld, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464

Village Hall Representatives

Miss B BRISCOE	Stoncroft, Fishpond, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NN	01297 678203
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr D V RICHARDS	The Old Coach House, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NF	01297 560933

Finance Committee

Mr R S ANDREWS	Befferlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mrs A C BAY	Stoke Mill Farm, Broadoak, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NR	01308 868036
Mr D V RICHARDS	The Old Coach House, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NF	01297 560933
Mrs E J FORTESCUE	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800
Mrs Y BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711

West Dorset District Councillors

Mr H THOMAS	Orchard End, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RQ	01297 489445
Mr D NEWSON	Lavender Cottage, Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6BB	01297 560855

Dorset County Councillor

Mr G BRIERLEY	Hinkhams, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RJ	01297 489773
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Police Liaison Officer

P C MULLEN	The Police Station, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3PG	01297 442603
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Clerk to The Council

Mrs C HUGHES	42 Fishweir Fields, Bradpole, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3HF	01308 421410
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