

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 13

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BLAP

Bridport Local Area Partnership Newsletter and Action Plans will be available in Village Halls. Please take one if you are interested.

The future of Charmouth Library

Earlier this year Dorset County Council reviewed the Dorset Library Service to find out where savings could be made. They proposed that thirteen smaller libraries in Dorset be closed, including that at Charmouth.

On 28th June Charmouth Parish Council organised a village meeting to object to the closure and to explain to the Head of the Library Service, Mr Paul Lievers, why people felt strongly that the library should stay open. Char Valley made the following representations on behalf of our three parishes:

1. Our parish area extends as far as Shave Cross but in the Library Efficiency Review we have not been counted as users of Charmouth Library. We are even further than Charmouth residents from other libraries, with limited access to public transport or to a mobile library stopping point.
2. The mobile library visits Monkton Wyld, Whitchurch and Morcombelake but since last year no longer comes to Wootton Fitzpaine, "because we are so close to Charmouth Library".
3. We fear that access to information and to books will be diminished by the closure. In a rural area, finding out about services can be difficult. Charmouth Library provides access to books, information and the Internet. Not everyone has the Internet at home and Charmouth is the closest public access point for many, including schoolchildren who need access for their studies.
4. In DCC's assessment of individual libraries, they considered secondary factors that include: "Are there issues of deprivation, social inclusion, rurality etc that might need to be balanced against other factors?" For Char Valley, the answer is YES. Also in Appendix 9 under Dorset Library Service Values, it states: "... the service provides access to information and books equitably in a rural area, recognising the need for working in the community to do this".
5. Closing Charmouth Library would not result in an adequate library service in a rural area with no public transport.

Later in the month after the meeting in Charmouth, the County Council Committee voted to postpone the closure of the library while undertaking further studies into how it could be kept open.

Charmouth Parish Council has formed a Library Working Group with a representative from Char Valley, to look at ideas and plans for the future of the Library. We need to know whether the Charmouth Library opening hours suit you or whether there are other times that would be better for either book borrowing, information or internet use. Also, are there additional activities or uses that would be suitable and useful to have at Charmouth Library? Please write to Cllr Fortescue, Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport DT6 6NA or email elizabeth.fortescue@nutcombe.co.uk.

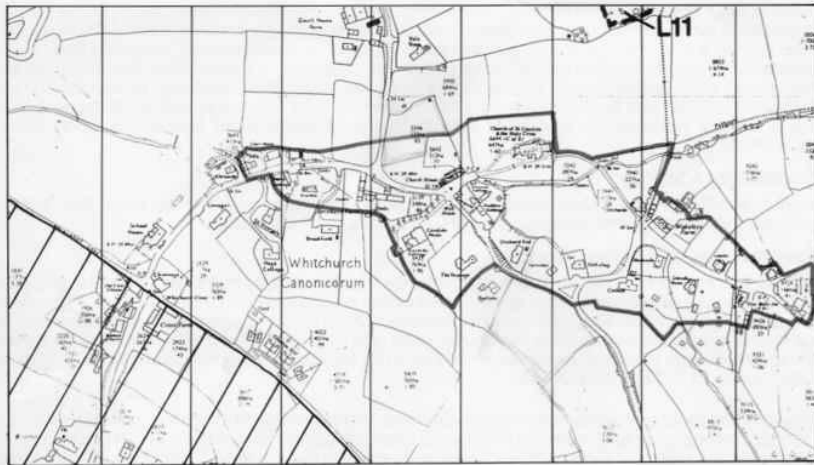
IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO FILL IN THE ENCLOSED FORM (ignore the date of June 30th). Please leave it in a public library or with one of your parish councillors (addresses on the village notice boards).

Use your library if you do not want to lose it!

Whitchurch Canoniorum Conservation Area

It appears that not everyone who lives in the beautiful village of Whitchurch Canoniorum knows that they live in a Conservation Area or what that signifies. So below are extracts from the original Whitchurch Canoniorum Conservation Area statement and a map of the boundaries.

The village is mainly linear in form with development having taken place alongside the main street running predominately west to east through the village. Although a mix of old and new buildings now exist in the village,



there are loose-knit groups of older buildings together with open spaces and trees which are considered to merit Conservation Area status. The proposed Conservation Area for the village includes historic buildings, trees and open spaces including the church area and the field to the south.

Conservation areas in general

Conservation areas are places of special architectural or historic interest that are given protection to ensure that people can continue to enjoy their character for years to come.

What does it mean for your building?

If a conservation area is to be safeguarded,

it is important that those who live or work in it give thought to any changes they propose and consider whether those changes respect the special qualities of the area. In conservation areas permission is often required for the demolition of buildings and structures, including outhouses and walls. If you are in any doubt, contact the district council for free advice before you begin work. There is no fee for applying for planning consent for demolition within the conservation area.

Development

Development in conservation areas must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area by using appropriate proportions and building materials and being of a size and design suitable for the building's location and surroundings. The district council also seeks to enhance conservation areas by working in partnership with other organisations and encouraging local landowners to take appropriate steps. This can be through landscape treatment and visual improvement schemes as and when funds are available, as well as removing features that detract from the area.

Work to trees

Some trees in conservation areas are already protected by Tree Preservation Orders, which means that no work can be carried out without the consent of the district council. In conservation areas you must give the district council at least six weeks notice in writing if you want to carry out any work to any other trees. This includes lopping, topping or felling trees. During this period, the district council is able to consider the appropriateness of making a tree preservation order, which could prevent the work from being carried out. During the six weeks you must not carry out work without permission, if you do you could be fined. There are some exceptions, so you should always seek advice from one of the district council's tree officers. There is no charge for obtaining permission to carry out work to trees and hedgerows.

West Dorset Review of Conservation Areas

West Dorset Planning Department has embarked on a review of the Conservation Areas in its area, as they have to create new Local Development Framework documents for the whole area to replace the old Local Plan documents. We do not yet know when the review for Whitchurch Canoniorum will take place but if anybody wishes to make representations about any aspect of the Conservation Area please do write in, with accompanying photos if available. The Parish Council will pass the information on or you can contact the Conservation Officer directly.

Roadside Verges

The Parish Council has been concerned that the system for cutting the blue-post verges was not working. After a detailed review by the Dorset Wildlife Trust, a new regime of cutting has been agreed with the Dorset County Council contractors. The arrangement will be reviewed as part of the next 5-yearly survey in 2009 and is as follows:

- Sites, which have lost much of their interest (Berne Lane): POST REMOVED although they will continue to be monitored.
- Sites which need a mid-season cut (Gassons Lane and Bakers Cross): YELLOW - Cut June/July and September.
- Sites that stay BLUE (Bluntshay Lane): Cut September.

All sites will have visibility cuts on junctions and corners, usually as part of the first phase in April/May. Road safety is the highest priority.

All the verges within the parish have been 'adopted' by a Dorset Wildlife Trust member, allowing information to be fed back to the Trust. However, it should be pointed out that the County Council, and therefore the contractor, are not obliged to adopt any suggestions made by the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

If any parishioners feel the system is not working and needs to be reviewed, please contact Joy Wallis, People and Wildlife Coordinator on 01305 264620.

Mast site in Stonebarrow Lane

In a letter to *Argiva*, dated 22 August 2006, West Dorset District Council *refused* planning permission for the retention of telecommunications equipment, cabin and ancillary structures at the site in Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth. The refusal reads as follows: -

'It is considered that the retention of this installation would be contrary to West Dorset District Local Plan (adopted July 2006) Policy SA5 by reason of the adverse impact on local amenity, having regard to the expressed anxieties of local residents about the risk to health in respect of Radio Frequency (RF) emissions and the noise generated by the ground based telecommunications equipment and ancillaries.'

At the time of printing, we have no knowledge of any intention to appeal. The deadline for ceasing to operate from the site was 30th September but they are still operating from the mast. Enforcement action has been requested by the residents of Stonebarrow Lane.

Public Transport

Have you ever wondered what WATAG stands for? Western Area Transport Group is the answer. Its purpose is to listen to concerns over public transport and alternative (to the car) transport issues and to liaise with bus and train operators, Dorset County Council public transport department and all other interested parties, with a view to improving and expanding public transport.

Within the Char Valley Parish Council area, there is a good bus service along the A35 through Morcombelake, but very little anywhere else. If the No 76 bus through Wootton, Whitchurch and Ryall ran more often on more days per week, would more people use it, bearing in mind that all persons over sixty or disabled, can have a bus pass that allows free travel throughout Dorset? Would residents of Wootton, Whitchurch and surrounding areas like a designated car parking area with bus shelter for car-to-bus transfer at perhaps, Morcombelake or Newlands in Charmouth?

Any positive thoughts on the subject would be welcome at the public discussion period of Parish Council meetings. Bus pass application forms are available from West Dorset District Council at Mountfield, Bridport.

Update from Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

October 5th Ballroom dancing lessons: 7 till 8.30 pm every Thursday in October and November with Rodney Fraser from Westcountry Dance Studios. Basics for beginners, absolutely everyone welcome. The only requirement is to have fun and have a go! Cider and light refreshments. £5 per head and donations towards the refreshments. To book please phone Sophy: 678555 or Sue: 560948

October 13th Soundbites: Feature film: *Fried Green Tomatoes*, £5

October 31st Children's Halloween Party

November 19th Trilith Film Archive: Local archive film specific to our area. 7.30 pm with refreshments during the interval. £5, concessions £4

December 2nd Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall Centenary Dance. Traditional barn dancing with some waltz tunes by local band 'Up and Running'. Bring some supper to share.

Update from the James Hargreaves Community Hall

1. The work on the new rooms at the rear of the hall is almost complete. It is a pleasure to report that the hall now has a working inside toilet for the first time in its 140-year existence.
We are considering various designs before fitting out of the new kitchen begins.
2. Inside painting has started. We may be able to start painting the outside of the hall if there is enough time before bad weather sets in.
3. We are making good use of the loft space created over the new rooms.
4. We plan to begin work this month on the stone wall adjoining the graveyard. The wall has been in poor condition for many years.
5. Three new activities have recently started up - **THURSDAY STITCHERS** (contact Jackie on 489529 or Sue on 489658), **KNIT AND NATTER** (contact Judy on 489313 or Sheila on 489349) and **THE HARDOWN RAMBLERS** (contact Lorna on 489820 or Jeff on 489474).
6. Our last four fund-raising events have raised more than £1000 towards hall funds.

Update from Whitchurch Village Hall

The new heating system is in place which provides a comfortable environment for the non-active events.

The hall has been much used during the Summer and events have included a buffet dance, a clay pigeon shoot, a week long Arts and Crafts exhibition and a night at "The Races" which was twinned with our friends at the James Hargreaves Hall.

Future events include a pantomime, entertainment from the Symondsburry Mummings, and old time and sequenced dancing with the J.K.Duo. Finally, the Farmers Breakfast has been fixed for 28th January.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

And finally.....

Congratulations to our Clerk, Charlotte, on the birth of her daughter, Bekah May. Bekah was born on 21st September and weighed in a 9lbs. Wonderful news!

