

# CHAR CHAT

## Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

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### Contents

#### Front page:

- Sewerage Scheme for Ryall & Whitchurch
  - Vacancy for Councillor & Neighbourhood Watch Officer

#### Centre pages:

- The National Trust
- Our Web site
  - Fuel Thefts
  - Morcombelake Post Office
  - A35 Vehicle Activated Speed Sign
  - Whitchurch Affordable Housing
  - Bus shelter for Morcombelake
  - The Digital Switchover
  - Flood Warden

#### Back page:

- Village Hall Updates

### Vacancy for Councillor

Due to the retirement of Vincent Diment, we have a vacancy for a new councillor for Whitchurch South.

**Applications have to be in by 10 November.**

**Applicants are asked to come to the meeting on 17 November for an interview, following which the new councillor will be co-opted onto the parish**

### Possible Sewerage Scheme for Ryall and Whitchurch

The Parish Council has been asked to consider the provision by Wessex Water of mains sewerage supply to Ryall and Whitchurch Canonorum.

The Parish/Group Application Form for the provision of first time sewerage, which is to be used to make an application to Wessex Water, has the following requirements:

- The village or area concerned is not already connected either directly or indirectly to the public sewerage system;
- There is an environmental or amenity problem associated with the absence of public sewerage which is sufficiently serious to justify the provision of public sewerage;
- The environmental or amenity problem cannot be more appropriately alleviated by improved operation or maintenance of the existing drainage systems.

If the scheme progresses and any householder connects to the new public sewer:

- It may be necessary to lay new public sewers through an individual garden/land (regardless of whether the individual householder connects to the sewer)
- Householders are likely to be required at their own expense to modify their own drainage pipe work around the house to:
  - a) convey **only** foul sewage to the new foul sewer, i.e. exclude roof water and paved area surface water drainage from the new sewer.
  - b) connect their existing foul drainage to the new public sewer which is likely to be in the road outside the property.
- Householders will be liable to a once only payment for Wessex Water's Infrastructure Charge, (currently £236 plus VAT 2001/02 reviewable annually), in addition to normal sewerage charges.

In order to take the application further, the Parish Council needs to provide responses, amongst others, to the following points:

- The total number of properties in the village/area and the number believed to have unsatisfactory drainage arrangements due to the absence of public sewerage and which give rise to environmental and/or amenity problems;
- A description of why the present drainage arrangements are unsatisfactory and what measures have been taken in the past to alleviate the unsatisfactory effects;
- Why it is considered preferable to install a new public sewerage system rather than repair existing systems.

Schemes for the provision of first time sewerage can only be justified where there is more than one property with environmental/amenity problems. Where more properties are affected, there is likely to be more justification for public sewerage.

Consequently, the case for the application is likely to be strengthened by the provision of supporting Drainage Detail data.

Anyone interested in participating in the Scheme, or anyone experiencing problems with drainage, is asked to contact Emma Costin, Clerk to the Council (telephone number and email address on back page). Those interested will be asked to complete a Drainage Details form giving details on any Environmental/Amenity problems caused by the absence of public mains drainage, so that these can be submitted with the application.

### Vacancy for Neighbourhood Watch Officer

Debbie Snook is giving up her role as Neighbourhood Watch Officer for Wootton Fitzpaine.

If anyone is interested in becoming the new Watch Officer, please contact Debbie on 01297 561395

### **Fuel Thefts**

There are parts of the Marshwood Vale Area that are being targeted by persons stealing vehicle fuel. Vehicles attacked range from commercial to private vehicles. When parking think security; fit a locking petrol cap, consider upgrading an alarm to cover the fuel flap, consider anti-siphoning devices. If planning a long journey, fill up before you start not the night before. Report any suspicious activity. If you see a crime being committed ring 999. Pc Chris Forshaw

### **Morcombelake Post Office**

We are pleased to report that the Post Office has been given a reprieve. We understand the situation is to be reviewed in 2 years time.

### **A35 Vehicle Activated Speed Sign**

To try to reduce the number of speeding vehicles along the 40mph limit stretch of the A35 through Morcombelake, a vehicle activated speed indicator sign (VAS) is to be placed at the end of Gibbs Lane from November. Authorisation by Connect is imminent and completion aimed for December.

### **Whitchurch Affordable Housing**

We are sorry to report that there has been no further progress on the proposed affordable housing project for Whitchurch

## **The National Trust**

It's a long way from North London, Stoke Newington where I was born and brought up, to the sweeping downland of West Dorset, but I've felt at home here since childhood when my Grand Parents moved to Weymouth in 1973.

In the new post of Visitor Services Manager for the National Trust's West Dorset estate, I am responsible for helping visitors to appreciate and enjoy this uniquely beautiful corner of England, review, develop and grow Volunteer involvement, help improve interpretation, develop a range of diverse seasonal events and assist members of the West Dorset Team with local community engagement projects and Guardianship schemes.



At Burton Bradstock, the Trust is proposing an exciting community engagement project that will improve parking, information and facilities as well as providing environmental enhancements that will benefit the local community and the general public.

My job is not just a new post - it's an unusual one. Visitor Services Managers are usually appointed to look after facilities at the Trust's great houses and estates, making sure the throngs of paying visitors benefit as much from their visit as possible. There's no admission charge for

the Dorset coast and countryside, so customer service is not so easy to define. The downs, hill forts, cliffs and beaches do not need spotlights, interactive displays or explanatory captions - though they do need signposting, protection and appropriate interpretation.

My previous jobs in Parks Management, the London Wildlife Trust and Dorset Community Action have prepared me well for this fabulous post. Working with the landscape, people and volunteers is something that I have done throughout my working life and I very much look forward to continuing this with the National Trust.

With such a beautiful County abounding in footpaths, bridle ways, coastal paths, woodland and beaches, there is no excuse to not venture out and ENJOY all the natural beauty that the National Trust West Dorset sites have to offer.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved or helping your local National Trust sites and properties, please contact the local NT office in Charmouth on 01297 561900...I look forward to hearing from you!

Caroline Richards  
Visitor Services Manager - West Dorset October 2008

## **Char Valley Parish Council Web Site**

[www.charvalleypc.co.uk](http://www.charvalleypc.co.uk)

On our website you will find up-to-date minutes of meetings and planning applications dating back to 2002. You will also find contact details for all our Councillors, other useful phone numbers, the local weather forecast and beautiful photographs of our group parish.

So far this year more than 4,500 individual visitors have been to the site, compared to 4,350 for the whole of 2007.

If you have any photographs of our area, we encourage you to send them in so that we can build up a pictorial history of the parish over the next decades. If you would like to comment on anything going on in our parish or would like to make suggestions for the website, please use the feedback form which will be emailed to the Parish Clerk and then presented at the next meeting.

### **Flood Warden**

Mrs Chris Bailey (01297 489714) is the Flood Warden for our Parish. She should be contacted if you experience any problems with flooding in homes, lanes, etc. Houses that flood regularly may be issued with sandbags.

The Council is considering a central storage area for sandbags that could then be issued and filled by householders. If you are interested in being part of this scheme, which is at the proposal stage at present, please let Chris Bailey know.



## Are you ready for the Digital Switchover?

digital 

Our parish is due to switch to digital in May 2009. Analogue channels will be switched off and replaced with Freeview digital TV and radio services.

There are four main options to receiving digital TV, depending on where you live:

- Through an aerial (eg Freeview, Top Up TV, BT Vision) either through a digital box or a television with an integrated digital tuner;
- By satellite (eg Sky or non-subscription Freesat from Sky)
- Through a cable (not available in our area)
- Over broadband (eg Tiscali TV)

A postcode checker on the Digital UK website ([www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)) tells viewers when the switch is to be made and which options are available in their area now and after the switchover. Digital UK also operates a helpline: 08456 50 50 50.

Viewers must ensure that their TVs are capable of receiving a digital signal in order to continue receiving television services after switchover. Virtually any TV, even black and white ones, can be converted with a digital box. Anyone buying new TV equipment should look for the 'digital tick' logo (above) which identifies equipment designed to work before, during and after switchover.

Most homes already have digital television on the main set. For those getting digital for the first time or who are converting secondary sets around the home, the cost will vary according to the number of TVs and method of conversion. Some homes (5-10%) may also require a new aerial to receive digital signals.

- Freeview digital boxes start from approximately £25
- Integrated digital televisions start from approximately £100
- Subscription (eg Sky, Virgin, Top Up TV) start from approximately £10 per month
- Digital television recorders start from approx £100
- A standard new roof aerial normally costs £60-180

The **Digital Switchover Help Scheme**, established by the BBC to offer practical assistance at the time of switchover, will cover households in which one person or more:

- Is aged **75 years** or over; or
- has a **significant disability** - ie claims disability living allowance, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance or pensioners' mobility supplement; or
- is registered **blind or partially sighted**

For a subsidised fee of £40, eligible households may receive equipment to convert one television set, help with installation, an aerial replacement (if required) and follow-up support. For eligible claimants who also receive income support, job seeker's allowance or pension credit, the help will be provided free.

## Sir George Somers Day Parade

2009 will see the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bermuda by Sir George Somers as Britain's first Crown Colony. The annual Sir George Somers Civic Parade will be held in July, as part of the twinning celebrations of Lyme Regis and St George's, Bermuda

Born in Lyme Regis, **Admiral Sir George Somers (1554 - 1610)** was an Elizabethan privateer, merchant trader, military leader and MP for Lyme Regis. A friend of Sir Walter Raleigh, his career as a merchant trader and privateer made him a wealthy man and he was able to buy Berne Manor in Whitchurch Canonorum in 1587.

When he died in 1610, his heart was buried at his request on the beautiful island he had accidentally discovered but his bones were pickled in a barrel and returned to the Cobb at Lyme, then sent on to his family's church at Whitchurch Canonorum to rest forever.

Lyme Regis is twinned with St George in Bermuda. However the town is named after St George, the patron saint of England, and not Sir George Somers, founder of the colony of Bermuda.



## Bus Shelter for Morcombelake

Two bus shelters have been proposed for Morcombelake: one at Frodsham Motors and one at Ship Knapp. We are currently focussing on the Ship Knapp shelter to improve the safety of the school children that use the stop.

The shelter needs to be funded, purchased and installed by the parish council.

We understand that planning permission will not be necessary as it is a permitted development, although this is to be confirmed. We are currently awaiting a survey from the Highways Agency.

We are researching the full cost of the shelter and, in the meantime, have secured a grant of up to £1,000 from Dorset County Council.

Further funding may come from other DCC departments and from the proceeds of the weekly car boot sale, although, as the parish council cannot apply for this, an action group would be needed to make the application.

We would like to hear from the parents of children using the Ship Knapp stop who might be willing to form an action group for this purpose.

## Payphone provision in West Dorset

West Dorset District Council successfully objected to BT's proposal to remove 72 payphones from West Dorset. A response from BT is awaited but they cannot start work unless their appeal against the decision is successful.

## ***Village Hall Updates***

### ***Wootton Fitzpaine***

The Harvest Supper went well on 27 September.

Wootton has achieved a Highly Commended Award in the Best Kept Village Competition.

The Wootton Walk around the Clock held on 14 September enjoyed lovely, sunny weather, and raised nearly £700 towards the Wootton War Memorial Clock Repairs. The Village Hall Committee has now arranged to go ahead with the repairs, which should be starting on Monday, 13 October. It is hoped that there will be a re-dedication of the memorial at some time in the future.

Debby Snook attended a presentation ceremony, on behalf of the village hall committee, arranged by West Dorset Salthouse at West Bay on Thursday, 2 October. Attendees were from groups that had been awarded a grant by the council from proceeds of the car boot sale, held weekly at West Bay. Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall was awarded £500 towards the cost of the clock repairs.

### ***Stanton St Gabriel***

A supervised team of workers have repainted the exterior and interior of the James Hargreaves Hall; refitted oak floor blocks; fixed new guttering; repainted the arched window; refitted the main door; supplied and fitted a new notice board.

Inside there are now curtains and blackout blinds so slide and film shows can be run. Roller blinds have been purchased for the serving hatch. Thanks to a grant from Age Concern new pots, pans and cutlery have been purchased for the running of the monthly luncheon club.

Funds have been raised to renew the roof and reduce the ceiling inside; work is to start this autumn. There has been a problem with the cesspool which hopefully has been resolved.

Village Varieties on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> raised £660.00 which was divided between Julia's House Hospice, Air Ambulance and the Hall. Wilf's Walk in May was followed by tea in the Hall. There were two table top sales in March and June with a picnic on Stonebarrow and a Coffee Morning for Julia's House also in June. A Strawberry Tea was held at the end of July in Maggie and Ray's garden.

### ***Whitchurch Canoncorum***

The main hall, green room and entrance area have been redecorated. Plans are in hand to redecorate the cloakrooms and to alter the old kitchen and the rear exit area.

We have had several enjoyable events over the last few months and our acquisition of a skittle alley and a pool table has enabled us to extend them.

We applied for and were awarded a grant from BLAP (Bridport Local Area Partnership) which went a long way to cover the cost of the alley and equipment. Consequently the hall is open every Monday, with a bar, for games and a basket meal. We chose Monday evening because that is when most local public houses are closed.

### ***Wootton Village Hall Events***

- **1 November:** The Buffalo Gals bring us an irresistible show of Appalachian, Bluegrass, Blues and Cajun music.
- **23 November:** a special opportunity to hear Seckou Keita, the talented kora player (West African harp-lute), featuring his phenomenal instrumental and evocative vocal technique.

### ***Regular User's Groups:***

- Art Group
- Country Dancing
- Gardening Club and Spring Flower Festival
- Hardown Ramblers
- Knitting
- Monthly Pop - In of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday
- Table Tennis Club
- Stalls at late night pre Christmas shopping in Bridport and at the Bridport Charter Fair

### ***Whitchurch Village Hall Events***

- **28 November:** a dinner/dance with the J-K Duo. Tickets from Kay or Sue Johnson 01297 489375
- **11 December:** a Christmas bingo evening
- **22 December:** a Christmas games evening
- **25 January:** the Farmhouse Breakfast