

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 21

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Affordable Housing Public Meeting

To be held on Thursday **5th March 2009** at 7pm in the Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall.

All members of the public and interested parties are welcome to attend to discuss the affordable housing needs in Whitchurch Canonorum.

Rob Asprey, the Rural Development Officer, will be attending, as will one of the Church wardens, representing the Church Lands Trustees.

Char Valley Exhibition - Today And Yesterday

at Whitchurch Village Hall on 15th and 16th August 2009

This exhibition will incorporate the parishes of Whitchurch Canonorum (Including Morcombelake, Fishpond and Monkton Wyld), Wootton Fitzpaine and Stanton St Gabriel.



The exhibits will include photos, news cuttings and artefacts from the past and present relating to buildings, farming, social events and the schools (and anything else that appears).

The following documents will also be available: -

- o 1881 census of the 3 parishes - printouts of each household
- o Tithe Maps and apportionments of the 1840s of the 3 parishes
- o 1780s maps showing the Manor of Whitchurch Canonorum with maps - listing owners and tenants, acres, chains and rods
- o Old Farm Sale catalogues
- o Some genealogy from local long-standing families
- o Boards on selected farms from each parish showing past and present photos and write-ups about activities carried out.

It is hoped that local people may be able to contribute to the exhibition with: -

- loans of items of small domestic or farming memorabilia
- photographs (past or present)
- historical documents with any interesting facts about relevant items within the Char Valley
- house histories -when/why/how was the house built, who has owned it, who has lived in it, changes that have taken place over the decades/centuries?
- details of interesting archaeological features - ancient sites of say: -
 - saw pits
 - Ridge & furrow fields
 - hut circles
 - clay pits
 - sheepwashes
 - interesting ruins etc
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Please contact Sylvia Creed-Castle on 01297 489444 or email on sylviabluntshay@btopenworld.com if you would like to contribute anything of the above.

Thank you to all the people who have already agreed to help.



Use Traders wisely

Trading Standards is reminding people that you have new rights when it comes to signing contracts for goods or services in your own home.

From 1 October 2008, all traders who come to your home to sell you things have to give you 7 days to cancel the contract, as long as the goods or services cost over £35. They should give you these cancellation rights in writing, and if they fail to do so, they are committing a criminal offence. Previously, only cold callers had to give you these rights, but now it applies to all traders even if you have invited them into your home.

You can cancel the contract in writing within 7 days of entering into the contract, and claim a full refund of anything paid. However, if the trader is offering you a service (for example, paving your garden) and you have agreed to his starting the work during the cancellation period, you can still cancel but will have to pay him a reasonable amount to cover the work already done.

If you come across a salesman who will not give you these rights, or tries to make you sign your rights away, report them to Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

A35 Vehicle Activated Speed Sign

The VAS has been ordered but has yet to be delivered.

Letter from PC Foreshaw

Hello to those of you who don't know me. My name is Chris Forshaw. I am your local beat officer and I work with Mark Jones, Police Community Support Officer. We are the Marshwood Vale Safer Neighbourhood Team. You can find us on the Dorset Police web site and our office number is 01305 226912.

I would like to let you know of some good things that are taking place in the area. Since November we have a dedicated Sergeant, Sgt. Jon Bleasdale, to look after the teams and to provide us with support. Our Section Commander, Insp. Alan Jenkins, has negotiated a patrol vehicle for Bridport Section from Magna Housing, which will enable us to get out and about.

We have been working in partnership with Beaminster NFU to keep the 'Stop That Thief' initiative running and have recently secured nearly £3,000 in funding from outside the police budget. This money will be used to help prevent thefts in rural locations.

The recent bad weather provided extra commitments for us but I am pleased to report that, as we were prepared, we have not been seriously affected. There have been a number of arrests and search warrants executed in our area and crime remains low compared to this time last year.

I recently launched the recycling bin sticker campaign, aimed at speeding motorists. Some 'speeders' are locals and we plan to continue to target areas in order to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in the area.

At the moment we are getting reports of heating oil and gas cylinders being stolen. Please be vigilant.

If you need to contact the police, non-urgent enquiries should be directed to 01305 222222. For anything urgent, call 999. Thank you.

PC Chris Foreshaw

Lines for Wootton

Chris Orum, Senior Media Relations Manager, British Telecommunications plc told us that Open reach (the company that maintains the local network on behalf of all service providers) is in the process of ducting & installing a new copper cable which will enable the removal of the line concentrator, which currently feeds the area. All the lines currently being fed from the concentrator will be given a direct line from the exchange, allowing end users to apply for broadband via their service providers.

We understand that work on the project is almost complete and that, once connected, it will enable Wootton (and other villages later) to be linked up to the "Ethernet". More information is available from www.switchedonuk.org

Bonfires Within the Char Valley Parish

Following a few recent bonfires within the parish, we would like to make everyone aware of the restrictions in place concerning this topic.

There are no restrictions stopping residents having bonfires but there is a restriction related to 'Statutory Nuisance'. However, there may be a bye-law on a piece of land, for example an allotment, that may include a time restriction.

Concerning 'Statutory Nuisance', this relates to invasive smoke and not the actual having of a bonfire. The smoke must have frequency, duration and severity such that it materially affects the way in which residents enjoy their homes. It must also be from a singular source, rather than a number of premises.

If anybody wishes to make a complaint about bonfires within the area they should do so to: Jane Williams, Senior Environmental Health Officer Environmental Protection, Community Protection Division, West Dorset District Council, Stratton House, 58/60 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT11UZ
Tel: **01305 251010x2472**
Fax: **01305 251481**

Bus Shelter for Morcombelake

The site survey at Ship Knapp has been completed through the Highways Agency, although we have still to receive a copy of the report. The Highways Agency instructed their consultants to commence with a detailed design of the scheme. We have provided an outline of what we require. The Highways Agency will then advise if this is suitable and, if so, the exact positioning,

West Dorset Spring Clean

West Dorset District Council is calling for groups to come forward and register for the annual tidy up which takes place in April. Residents and community groups are being encouraged to take part and spruce up their neighbourhoods. The District Council provides advice, plastic sacks and gloves and picks up the rubbish collected. Any group is welcome to join in but ideally the clean up should concentrate on an area that does not receive routine highway cleaning.

West Dorset District Council Leader Robert Gould, said: "Last year many town and parish councils and other organisations took part in West Dorset's Spring Clean Campaign which saw many areas which needed attention, receiving a much needed clean and we hope that organisations will be just as supportive this year. This is a great opportunity to clean up those eyesore areas, particularly in places that the council is not expected to clean. Much of West Dorset is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the spring clean is a wonderful way of keeping the district looking spick and span. The district council is very keen to help residents keep their neighbourhoods tidy. The more people that get involved in the spring clean, the bigger the difference that can be made."

Communities often choose to target areas, such as parks and gardens, which are not usually covered by the District Council's normal street cleaning and rubbish collection rounds. Anyone is welcome to join in. To take part in the spring clean, contact Jenny Hogg on 01305 252428 or Jackie Thomas on 01305 252624 by 9 March 2009.

Over 6,000 missions and counting

The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance needs £3,500 a day to keep its helicopter and highly trained crew in the air. As a charity, the service relies on the generosity of individuals and organisations to help it continue its life-saving work. Airborne within three minutes of a 999 call, the Air Ambulance can reach most of its operational area within nineteen minutes. It needs an area only half the size of a tennis court to be able to land. It can then transport patients to the appropriate hospital for their injuries - being able to do this will make the difference between life and death for many patients.

It's your call

But now you can also raise money for the charity by recycling your unwanted mobile phones. It is easy to recycle your mobile phone; just place it in an envelope and send by Freepost to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Freepost London 16281, London, WC1N3BR- no stamps needed! Each recycled phone has a value; however some newer models are worth much more.

You can also recycle your textiles- for more information on your nearest textile bank and how to help the Air Ambulance visit www.bagitup.org.uk. For more information about the air ambulance, see www.dorsetandsomersetairambulance.co.uk or



New Councillor for Whitchurch South

We would like to welcome Janet Sandford of Well Cottage, Ryall, telephone 01297 489272, to the Parish Council.

"My husband and I moved into Ryall 25 years ago having found the perfect place to settle after looking around intensively for three years. We chose Ryall because of its tranquillity and beauty - qualities we wish to preserve for future generations. I know that this takes much effort so I am happy to give the Parish Council any help I can."

Janet Sandford

Fire Safety in Your Home

Every year over 55,000 fires in the home kill 700 people and injure another 10,000. From 31 December 2007 to 21 September 2008, Dorset Fire & Rescue Service attended 11 accidental dwelling fires where there was a fire related fatality.

The most common causes are electrical faults or smoking materials setting fire to furniture.

A fire strikes when you least expect it, often during the night. It spreads very quickly and the real killer is smoke. If you are asleep when a fire starts and you don't have an alarm to wake you, your chances of surviving are zero. A smoke alarm could save your life.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ of deaths in home fires happen between 10:00 pm and 8:00 am.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of people who died in home fires were asleep at the time.
- 270 (approx) of those killed did not have a smoke alarm.
- Over the last five years, more than 70 people have been killed each year because their smoke alarms didn't work.

As part of our aim to eliminate fire deaths and injuries and reduce domestic fires, Dorset Fire & Rescue Service carries out Home Safety Risk Checks. **These are available by request and are completely free of charge.** As part of the check, if eligible we can fit smoke detectors **free of charge** too.

If you have any concerns or further questions, please call Dorset Fire & Rescue Service on 01305 252600 or email reception@dorsetfire.gov.uk

Village Hall Updates

Whitchurch Canonorum

The preservation of the hall and cottage continues. The hard standing for car parking has been accomplished and plans are almost finalised for the amelioration of the old kitchen and rear exit area. We are steadily paying off the mortgage of £25,000 that was taken out jointly by a large number of local people and our account looks reasonably healthy.

We have had several social events recently which have contributed not only to the hall fund but to other charities and we were able to make significant contributions to:

CLIC

Muscular Dystrophy

Local Air Ambulance Service

Cancer Research UK

James Hargreaves Community Hall

The hall roof was swiftly and expertly renewed in October and the ceiling refurbished and painted. A working party then gave the hall a thorough clean that included polishing the wooden block floor.

A pine cupboard has been built at the end of the hall mostly to house items for the flourishing art groups.

We intend to erect a lean - to shed at the rear of the hall to house equipment currently stored inside. Future projects include tidying and planting up the rear area and creating a disabled parking space.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of children in Morcombelake and the village is looking for new activities to involve them. A very successful supervised Halloween party and Trick or Treat trail to cooperating households was held at the end of October.

A Christmas village lunch took place in December that proved very popular. This was more of a social event than for fund raising and a Spring Lunch is planned for March 8th. The same team of expert cooks run a monthly Luncheon Club for the elderly or those living alone in the village.

Fund raising activities continue to be organised by the hard-working committee.

Wootton Fitzpaine

We are very pleased to announce that work on the Clock has been completed. Smiths of Derby carried out the restoration work on the Wootton Memorial Clock at the village hall. The village hall was built in 1906 and is now a listed building. Smiths is a company specialising in restoration and conservation of old clocks. The clock was originally installed in 1921 to commemorate the fallen from this parish in first World War. The hourly chimes were heard by all the estate workers in the nearby fields, so that they knew when to go home for their midday meal and when to finish work. At the same time, maintenance work was carried out on the bell tower. The notice board beneath the clock was also restored. It says that the names of the fallen are in Wootton Church. The Western Front Association have been researching the background of those whose names are on the war memorial plaque in the church, and they also attended the re-dedication service, held on 9th November, at which celebrity Clock cakes were served. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who donated to the fund.

We have held three successful Arts Reach performances including the world-renowned kora player, Seckou Keita, and children's theatre from the national tour of Theatre Alibi. The new menu of Artsreach events will be chosen in May and anyone interested in suggesting ideas for entertainment is asked to contact Sue Beckers.

Our next project is to raise money for a stage lighting board and rig and we also plan to re-design, purchase and install lighting for the main area of the Hall.

Whitchurch Village Hall Events

- **14 March:** jumble sale organised by Pat Hawkins; proceeds to the Bell Tower Restoration fund and the hall
- **2 April:** Easter bingo evening
- **26 April:** a family lunch. Only 100 tickets will be available so book early with Sue or Kay (01297 489375)
- **21 June:** Treasure hunt and cream tea
- **5 September:** dance with 'One Night Stand'
- **27 November:** dinner and dance with the 'J K Duo'

Regular User Groups:

Art Groups

Luncheon Club

Country Dancing

Gardening Club and Spring Flower Festival

Hardown Ramblers

Knit and Knatter

Monthly Pop - In on the 4th Tuesday

Table Tennis Club

Village Varieties