

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

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Today &

Yesterday

Exhibition of Life, Work and History in the Char Valley' 15th, 16th August Whitchurch Village Hall. 10 am to 5 pm

Bermuda 400 celebrations

To view a 26 minute video, visit the Lyme Regis TV website at www.lymeregisradio.com/eventschannel.html

Click 'On Demand' and select 'Bermuda 400 Celebrations'

House

Identification

For the benefit of postmen, emergency services and others, we urge house owners to make sure house names are clearly displayed outside their property,

Char Valley Parish Council Annual Report 2008/09

Your Parish Council consists of 12 elected or co-opted members of the public and represents the wards of Whitchurch Canonorum South and North, Wootton Fitzpaine and Stanton St Gabriel. The area covers from the B3165 to the north, the Coast to the south, Shaves Cross in the east and to Charmouth in the west.

Council meetings are held monthly with the exception of August and December, plus there are two finance meetings in spring and autumn. The meetings take place in a different hall each month and move in rotation between Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall, Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall and The James Hargreaves Community Hall at Morcombelake. We are grateful to the relevant village hall committees for allowing the Parish Council to use the halls. The Public Discussion period is for local residents to bring to the council's notice any concerns, but local councillors can be contacted at any time between meetings. Meeting dates and venues are put on the notice boards and on the Char Valley Parish Council website: www.charvalleypc.co.uk

Each area holds an **Annual Parish Meeting** generally in April or May in the village halls. Residents are invited to informal meetings to discuss individual parish concerns and issues. The reports from these meetings are then discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and if any action is required, sent to the relevant department.

During the year we have considered 46 planning applications. The Parish Council can also arrange extra meetings for planning issues between monthly council meetings if required. Planning applications can be viewed on the www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk and www.charvalleypc.co.uk websites and comments posted.

We are grateful to our **Rights of Way Officers** Mr and Mrs Don Newman for Whitchurch Canonorum, Mr John Bridle for Stanton St Gabriel and Mr Peter Mills for Wootton Fitzpaine. They report defects and problems to the Parish Council or Footpath Officers at West Dorset District Council. Our **Tree and Hedgerow Officer** is councillor Catherine Parr. Our **Ancient Monuments Officer** is councillor Sylvia Creed Castle.

Bridport Local Area Partnership continues to be a source of local knowledge and its meetings are useful for our members to exchange ideas and information. Our councillor representatives attend the meetings regularly at the Council Offices in Mountfield at Bridport and report back to council meetings.

Roads and Lanes. The rural lanes and hedges are a constant cause for concern especially after wet weather. County councillor Brierley organises the annual Lane Inspection of each parish with the Dorset County Council officer and a local councillor with local knowledge, to discuss maintenance work that needs to be undertaken.

Members of the public can report road problems at the www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk website or by contacting the Clerk who will report the matter to the right department. During the year many potholes caused by frost have been repaired and work is due to start at Stockham Bridge in the near future.

Mr John Bridle, the A35 representative, reported to the council that the VAS ordered for Morcombelake is now in stock at Honiton. We are most grateful for his work on this matter. Extensive work is to be done to the bus stops, flagpoles and kerbstones at Morcombelake during the period August to December 2009.

We hope to arrange a meeting at Morcombelake in September to update residents on the proposed work.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

A councillor vacancy has occurred owing to the retirement of Peter Ray. The date for applications to be with the Clerk is September 7th and the co-option will take place at the James Hargreaves Hall meeting on September 14th. If only one applicant, he or she will be co-opted; if more, a secret ballot takes place between councillors and the one with the most votes is co-opted.

Planning Applications for Char Valley Parish Council

When planning applications come into West Dorset District Council, they are responsible for informing immediate neighbours, putting an application notice at the entrance of the relevant property and sending a copy of the application to the Clerk at the Parish Council. They will also advertise the information in the Bridport News if any of the following criteria are satisfied: application is in a conservation area, relates to a listed building, concerns rights of way or is a departure from the Local Plan. All other applications are not advertised. Once received by the Clerk a copy is forwarded to the relevant Parish councillor and it goes on the next Parish Council meeting Agenda. The councillor then considers the planning application, but has no obligation to visit the application site, or talk to the neighbours, although most councillors do so with another councillor from that area.

The councillor reports back to the Clerk if the expiry date is imminent and brings his/her recommendations to the next Parish Council meeting where it is discussed and a vote taken. The comments are then referred back to the WDDC planning department at Dorchester.

Char Valley Parish Council is only a consultee and has no power over the outcome of planning applications. If people want to object to a planning application they should write to the planning authority at WDDC, Stratton House, Dorchester. Objectors are welcome to attend Parish council meetings and to air their opinions in the Public Discussion Period. This is then noted and comments sent back to WDDC, generally that there is local opposition or support.

Your District councillors may also be contacted regarding planning issues; their names are on the website and on notice boards.

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

DATES FOR 2009

DATE	VENUE	TIME
August	No meeting	
14 th September	James Hargreaves Community Hall	7.30
12 th October	Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	7.30
16 th November	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	7.30
December	No meeting	

Next Issue of Char Chat

The next issue of Char Chat will have *THE ENVIRONMENT* as its central theme. This will include: -

- The views and experiences of local people - we would like to hear from anyone who has experience of 'green' living: using solar panels, geo-thermal heating, re-cycling water, exchanging the car for the bicycle, growing your own veg etc. - whether it lived up to your expectations, whether you would recommend it to others, tips and trips that might help others thinking of embarking on similar initiatives in the future. Either call Liz or Trevor (phone numbers on last page) or, if you prefer, e-mail us an article: esd@bryanston.co.uk or trevorchambers1@googlemail.com
- Technical topics relating to the environment
- Readers' '*Eco Tips*'. We would like to hear from you and have in mind something you have perhaps tried and found to work that others might like to copy.

VILLAGE HALL UPDATES

The James Hargreaves Community Hall

We have landscaped the area at the rear of the hall (site of the old chapel). The new storage facility on the site allows de-cluttering of the hall and so has increased its usable area.

We have set up a library of DVD and CDs in the hall available for rental at a nominal cost.

Our Luncheon Club continues to thrive and our Spring Village Lunch proved very popular. The next Luncheon Club meal is in September and the next Village Lunch on August 23rd

Our stall at the Bridport Charter Fayre on 4th July was well supported and raised over £250 for hall funds.

Future events include: -

- Strawberry Tea at St. Gabriel's, Shedbush Lane on Sunday 2nd August at 3 pm.
- Outing to Clark's Village, Street on Thursday 13th August. Coach leaves Morcombelake at 10 am.
- Art Group Annual Exhibition on August Bank Holiday weekend.
- Stall and games at the Whitchurch, Morcombelake and Ryall Flower Show on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The hall is well used and we have an expanding list of user groups. For bookings, please ring Maureen on 01297 489350.

Whitchurch Village Hall

Our work on the hall continues with the focus being on the cottage. We organised fund raising events - Easter bingo, the St George's Day lunch and the treasure hunt - so we were able to spend £4,200 on refurbishments for the cottage and we should be able to install a new heating system shortly.

Our next functions include:

19th September - a dance with One Night Stand, and

27th November - a dinner dance with the J K Duo.

Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

We continue to have regular meetings of the Guides, and toddler groups. Other recent bookings have included a workshop on relaxation and a film show is booked for 31 July.

The kitchen refurbishment plans will necessitate applying for grants and listed building consent. Grants can be applied for locally and from the EU. Three Stage Lights, a Lighting Board and some sound equipment have been kindly donated by Bryanston School.

Wootton Fete raised a provisional figure of £2400. Details will be posted on the notice board.

Peter Sharp from Wootton will chair the next committee meeting, on a provisional basis.

Morcombelake Good Neighbours - Homewatch

This is an organisation run by the village with the cooperation of the police to promote better liaison on the safety and protection of our homes. It also forms a network of 'good neighbours' to encourage caring and friendly contact.

The village is divided into nine zones, each with a coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for passing on police messages and other causes of concern to individual households. Communication chains are organised by each coordinator and depend on local conditions i.e. phone network, personal visits and e-mail. The coordinators meet about four times a year to discuss issues. The secretary for this is Joanna Scotton, Cedar End, Main Road, 01297 489448.

Area 1 - Main Road east of Shedbush Lane, Carters Lane, Star Lane, Sun Lane. Coordinator Graham Knight, Redwoods, Star Lane, 01297 489448

Area 2 - Shedbush Lane, Post Office, Cedar End. Coordinator Eddie Edmonds, Stanton Lea, Shedbush Lane, 01297 489820

Area 3 - Ship Knapp. Coordinator Chris Everidge, Heathlands, 01297 489205

Area 4 - Main Road west of Shedbush Lane, Gibbs Lane, Lower Verriotts Lane. Coordinator Penny Watt, Pine Cottage, Gibbs Lane. 01297 489455

Area 5 - Upper Verriotts Lane. Coordinator Brian Godfrey, Underhill House, Verriotts Lane. 01297 489313

Area 6 - Loves Lane. Coordinator Sue Warren, Hardown Cottage, Loves Lane. 01297 489404

Area 7 - The Green. Coordinator Jeff Webber, Old Blacksmiths Cottage, Chapel Lane, 01297 489474

Area 8 - Pitmans Lane, Taylors Lane. Coordinator Ray Richardson, Upalong Cottage, Pitmans Lane, 01297 489427

Area 9 Whitchurch Road, Taylors Lane south. Coordinator Syd Green, Manscombe Abbey, Taylors Lane. 01297 489438