

# CHAR CHAT

## Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 24

March 2010

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### Wootton Toddlers

Wootton Toddlers is held every Friday during term-time between 10am-12pm at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall.

We are a small friendly group of parents who enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat!

There is an outdoor play area next to the Hall and we have lots of activities for babies and toddlers to enjoy.

For additional information please call Clare 01297 678426.

## Affordable Housing

Having completed the initial consultation, Hastoe Housing Association is now seeking to finalise its agreement after which detailed designs will be commissioned with a view to seeking planning consent.

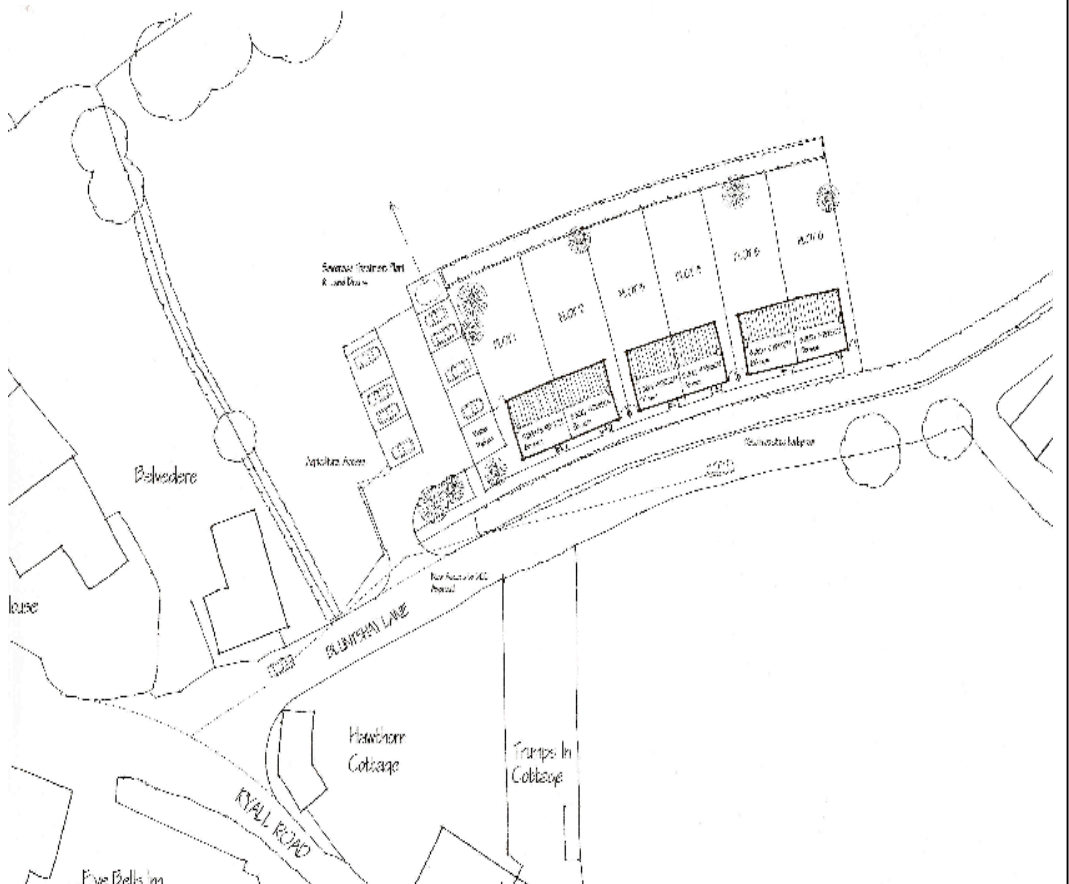
Two sites have been chosen (outline plans below) - one in Bluntshay Lane on which six homes are proposed, set in three semi-detached dwellings and the other around the corner, in Ryall Road, where a further four homes are proposed.

A public consultation meeting was held in the Village Hall in Whitchurch on 4 March at which the plans were presented and discussed. The meeting was well attended and overall the proposals were positively received. A selection of the comments made during the course of the meeting is given on the next page.

The next stage is to engage fully with planning colleagues and any comments they make will be fed back to the architects prior to the preparation of detailed designs. Elevations will then be prepared, providing a better idea of what the houses will look like.

Once the Planning Application has been submitted, the public will be able to make comments to the Development Control Team for formal consideration.

Meanwhile, anyone wishing to make comments, should do so through Rob Aspray, Rural Housing Development Officer, West Dorset District Council, Stratton House, 58/60 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UZ, telephone 01305 252447 or online at [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)



## New Bus Shelter for Morcombelake

The Parish Council is to decide on the type of shelter and its position. Andy Kirby of CONNECT will then liaise with the Highways Agency. Once they all agree to the plans the Parish Council can proceed.

The Council will ask Chideock Parish Council for details of the process they followed to install their shelters.

Manufacturers Garrick will provide a free site survey to help establish the most suitable type of shelter and the best position for it.

## Crossing in Morcombelake

A pelican crossing is to be sited to the west of Moores Bakery. A dropped kerb and ducting for electrics have already been installed and by the time of going to print, anti-skid surfacing and further electrical work should be completed.

CONNECT currently estimate that work on the crossing will be completed by the end of March (this year).

## Comments from Public Consultation Meeting:

"I really hope this goes ahead, local youngsters need them"

"So glad to see a start, await more detailed plans"

"We wish the project well. Of all the proposals presented to date, this would appear to have minimum adverse effect on the environment as well as maximum number of affordable properties".

"We think these are very sensible sites, with regard to access and house numbers. Hopefully it will not be too long before plans are passed and development begins".

"Taking part of the hedge out which is in a conservation area, was not allowed by WDDC just last year when we applied for access. Also for the size of the area, 4 houses is too many and out of character. Concerned with the position and arrangement for the septic tank and soakaway - more water running through our land and our garden - possible health and safety concerns for my children and neighbours. Think houses should be put on one site, less cost, more in keeping".

"Better to be parking around back - good location to help pub, love the idea of it, would love to be able to move back to the village, I am also here to support the people who really need this more than perhaps I do....".

"We are completely in favour of affordable housing in villages".

"Very interested in housing in Whitchurch and possible Marshwood builds?"

"I am concerned that land within the conservation area is being developed, contrary to the conservation plan. Assuming that land is to be developed, then four properties are too many for a village site. Two would perhaps be acceptable. Have you fully considered the very real drainage requirements of both the proposed sites? Why not have all the proposed development along Bluntshay Lane, thereby reducing development costs?"



## **Police Report** PC Chris Forshaw

We had a recent spate of reported thefts of fuel, both diesel for vehicles and heating oil. The reports have dried up for the time being in our area but we do not believe the thefts have necessarily stopped - perhaps relocated out of our area. Please watch the local press for our new initiative (PC Tim Poole's and mine). It is a sister-scheme to the *Stop that Thief* campaign and is called (perhaps unoriginally) *Stop That Oil*. We have recruited a

number of OFTEC registered Oil Installers who will provide and install alarms for fuel tanks at an agreed fee. In future victims of oil thefts will be offered a choice of experts to install, eventually, their choice of a variety of alarm systems. We are optimistic that this will deter the majority of these thefts.

Recently Dorset police ran a joint operation with Devon & Cornwall and Avon & Somerset officers. We patrolled the county boundaries from the coast up as far as Sherborne and I believe in excess of 20 police cars were involved - some locals may have been stopped during the course of the Operation which ran over several nights. We recorded a number of criminals going home early on those nights! There were no arrests made, although similar recent Operations in other parts of the County have been more fruitful.

Our *Stop That Thief* scheme (Tim's and mine, in which we cooperate with the local NFU) has achieved the accolade of "best practice" in this force and we are busy servicing requests from other counties, to launch it with them. So far Hampshire, Avon & Somerset and Sussex look like they will shortly be starting the scheme in their areas. Devon and Cornwall have already begun.

Partly off the back of this success we have been asked to agree that our *Stop That Oil* campaign is immediately launched as best practice in this county. Heady stuff!

## **Stockham Bridge Flood Warning**

Char Valley Parish Council has been approached by Dorset County Council and the Environment Agency about installing a Telemetry Unit on the Stockham Bridge to monitor river levels and detect early warnings of flood conditions. A kiosk will also be needed in a field nearby. The land owners and the Parish Council have visited the site. Two warning posts with a flashing light of "flood" conditions will be put in place, one by Courthouse Farm and one by Longleaze near the Prime Farm Lane. These two places have been chosen so that vehicles can be warned of flood conditions and have space to turn around and proceed by another route and because there is a power source nearby.

We understand that the "Flood" light will flash at vehicles only as they approach, rather than flash

continually, when the river is in flood. This new experimental unit as Stockham Bridge has been flagged as a trouble spot by the Emergency Agencies in the past. Please send any questions to the Char Valley Parish Council Clerk or Chairman.

## **Annual Parish Meeting Dates**

Each of our parishes has a separate annual meeting for local residents and community groups to discuss their local concerns. Please come along and share your concerns and comments.

**Whitchurch Canonorum Parish Meeting** will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 29 April at 7pm.

**Wootton Fitzpaine** will hold its Parish Meeting on Thursday, 22 April in the Village Hall at 7pm.

**Stanton St Gabriel Parish Meeting** is to be held on 11th May in the James Hargreaves Community Hall.

## **Whitchurch Canonorum Home Watch Coordinators**

Berne Lane - Clare Colby 01297 489232.

Goodens Hill - Clive Richards 01297 489500

Lower Street - Brian Wallace 01297 489332

Becklands Lane - Sue Parsons 01297 678330

Higher Street - Sally Legg 01297 489550

Bluntshaye Lane to Copse Gate Farm - Tina Hedditch 01297 489523

Bluntshaye Lane, Copse Gate Farm to Shaves Cross - Sylvia Creed Castle 01297 489444.

Gassons Lane - Sue Johnson 01297 489375.

If you have moved into the Village and would like an information pack please contact Sue Johnson. Please report anything suspicious to the Police 01305 222222 and also the Home Watch contacts, who can pass information around the area very quickly. It does work as we have proved in the past. Please also keep an eye on neighbours, property and cars and report anything that does not seem right at the time.

## **Dorset Gardens Trust 2010**

### **GARDEN DAY CHIDEOCK MANOR**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
from 10am - 5pm  
Entry £5**

An exciting all-day Sunday event for lovers of gardens and beautiful country in a magnificent setting, by kind invitation of Howard & Deirdre Coates. Specialist plant sales, stalls, displays, lectures, creative flower arranging demonstrations and refreshments.

The Chideock Manor estate is of medieval foundation and has been occupied for over 650 years, principally by the Arundell and Weld families. The present Roman Catholic Church which was built in a highly original Italian Romanesque style in 1870 by the Weld family will provide the venue for lectures chaired by Penelope Hobhouse.

Previous DGT Garden Days were at Thornhill in 2008, Parnham in 2006, Melbury in 2004, and Encombe in 2002. Funds raised enable the DGT to continue its work in protecting the historic parks and gardens of Dorset.

More background about the Trust and its activities can be found on our website at [www.dorsetgardenstrust.co.uk](http://www.dorsetgardenstrust.co.uk) or at 01300 321087. Registered Charity No 1000743.

# ***Village Hall Updates***

## ***The James Hargreaves Community Hall***

Parts of the walls have been dry-lined to help solve condensation problems in certain areas. We have purchased equipment to improve wheelchair and disabled access in to the hall.

Future events include: -

- MORCOMBELAKE GARDENING CLUB SEVENTH SPRING FLOWER SHOW on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2.30 p.m. Schedules available from the Post Office and The Five Bells, Whitchurch Canonorum.
- VILLAGE SPRING LUNCH on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 12.30 for 1.00. The lunch is open to all and will be held in the hall. Tickets are available from the Morcombelake Post Office.
- FASHION SHOW by M & Co on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7 pm. All proceeds will be donated to the R.N.L.I.
- QUIZ NIGHT with fish and chip supper on at 7 pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- 50/50 Auction on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 2 pm.
- Our RACE NIGHT on March 13<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all and raised £150 for hall funds.

## ***Whitchurch Canonorum***

The annual Farmhouse Breakfast which was our 10<sup>th</sup> was held at the end of January and was as successful as ever. It was enjoyed by more than 300 visitors to the hall. Consequently we have been able to set aside a useful sum for the continued upkeep of the hall and its cottage.

"Let us entertain you" was a revue using local talent and provided immense fun for more than 100 guests. The inaugural show was on 20<sup>th</sup> March and we hope to produce another early in 2011. We raised money for the hall and also gave £342 to Help for Heroes. We thank you for the support.

Future events include:           St George Roast on 25<sup>th</sup> April  
  Games Night most Mondays from 7.30pm

## ***Wootton Fitzpaine***

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Thursday, 25 March at 7.30 pm. It is open to all residents of Monkton Wyld and Wootton Fitzpaine parishes, and regular hall users. Hire rates for the hall will be reviewed. Hall user representative groups are invited to attend the meeting and should let Peter Sharp (Chairman) 01297 560780 know who will be representing their group.

Progress on the plans for the kitchen refurbishment continues and we have had a very successful Arts Reach event and successful Quiz night recently.

The Village Fete will take place on Monday, 31 May. Help is needed with providing cakes, tombola prizes, plants, books and **bric-a-brac** and well as helping to set up and take down the Fete, help with marshalling, teas, stalls and face painters. For more information please call Lynn on 560534 or Teresa on 560670.

## ***Whitchurch Canonorum Playgroup*** Registered Charity No. 1029623

I am writing to thank the Parish Council, and the local community for getting behind the Playgroup in recent months. An astonishing amount of support including fundraising events, donations and support and advice have helped a dedicated committee and our very hard working staff to turn the playgroup around.

We are now celebrating after a very successful Ofsted visit - we received a 'Good' rating, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, and considered to be the highest rating available for our village hall setting. This on top of our improved financial position has secured the future of the playgroup for local children. We are delighted also to welcome new children to the group with our register now standing at 22, with a further 7 children due to start during the coming year.

With the donation from the Parish Council we have bought new equipment to create a 'quiet corner' for the children and new toy storage units so the children can choose what they play with, amongst other items. Donations received from other groups, too many to mention, have been used for new toys including children's kitchen, garage and ride-on toys.

As we move towards Easter the children are busy preparing for Mothering Sunday and collecting sponsorship for the annual Easter Egg hunt. However, at Easter, we are also saying goodbye to our much loved Play Leader Sian. Sian is moving out of the area to join her family, and will be missed by children, parents, committee and colleagues alike. We are advertising for a new Leader, and are also interested in hearing from anybody who would be interested in joining our list of bank staff, qualified or unqualified.

Anybody who would like to get involved in the Playgroup as a volunteer or to join our list of bank staff should contact me on 01297 489128. Similarly, if anybody has any left over bedding plants the children can plant or unloved ride-on toys in need of a new home, please get in touch.

Helen Roberts