

The Tower

Churchill Parish Council newsletter

Issue 38
Summer
2016



New fitness equipment at Ladymead Lane play area

The Parish Council has now ordered three new pieces of fitness equipment that can be used by young people and adults alike, to be installed on the grass area in the skate park enclosure in Ladymead Lane.

The provision of this equipment is the start of an ongoing project to improve facilities for residents and it is hoped to expand the equipment on offer in the years to come. It is also hoped to provide a 'Trim Trail' facility around the edge of the recreation field in future.

The three new pieces of equipment ordered are: paired dip bars, a leg raise rack and a step up ladder.

It is anticipated that the equipment will be installed and ready for your use prior to the school summer holidays in July.



Telephone kiosk gets a repaint



The now very smart telephone kiosk in Front Street. This repaint has been the result of many hours of hard work by Village Orderly Michele and cooperation from BT who supplied all the materials.

Clerk's column

Having been appointed in April 2016 as the Clerk of your Parish Council and succeeded Aleana (who has gone onto pastures anew and will be a tough act to follow), the first thing I would like to say is a very big thank you to all the residents I have had the pleasure in meeting over the past three months or so. The welcome and support I have received has been truly outstanding and is a mark of the tremendous community spirit that exists in this very active and vibrant parish.

Having retired as a senior police officer some sixteen years ago, I have been involved in local council and local government management and administration since then. My work had caused me to have the management responsibility of both large and small town and parish councils, and I can honestly say that I have not previously encountered

such a high level of community activity and interest in a parish of this size.

The community is indeed fortunate to have such an excellent group of Councillors who volunteer their time for the good of the community, and have certainly kept me busy in my time here with their many activities and projects to maintain and improve the area and ensure robust representation on matters affecting the parish!

The past three months have been something of a whirlwind and some would say 'baptism of fire' for me as your new clerk. The first quarter in any local council is one of the busiest, with Annual meetings; considerable legal documentation and procedures for annual returns to external bodies; planning the year ahead etc.

I know some of you wondered about the 'pink' telephone box in Front Street – was this a mark of the new Clerk? – well no (although I did have some thoughts!!) it was in fact part of the necessary undercoat reflecting the hard work our Village Orderly Michele has been conducting to get it looking spick and span.

It has been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding three months or so and I look forward to meeting many more residents as I settle into the role in the months and years ahead.

Just a final thought for summer:

☺ I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me. ☺



CHURCHILL PARISH VILLAGE SHOW
10th SEPTEMBER 2016

CHURCHILL MEMORIAL HALL
LADYMEAD LANE
LANGFORD

Local Produce
Flowers
Crafts
Prizes
Raffle's

☀️ 🥕 🍅 🥔

☕️ 🍵 🥤 & A SELECTION OF DELICIOUS
HOMEMADE CAKES WILL BE ON SALE.

👦 🧑

A FUN DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Admission to the Village Show is 50p
Children up to the age of 16 FREE

Doors open to the public at 2.30pm



**Minibus
drivers
WANTED**

The new 12-seat minibus arrived two weeks ago and is currently parked at the Wrington Vale Medical Practice. We have undertaken a series of tests and the minibus has passed with flying colours.

The minibus is fully adapted and has a number of extras on it to aid passenger comfort and also maximise the space available

We are currently trying to recruit new drivers and eight of our current team have been through familiarisation training with a view to the minibus now being phased into service over the coming weeks.

www.churchillpc.org.uk

Churchill Parish allotments for rent

Half or full plots available – hurry, they're going quick!

Did you make one of these your new year resolution?

- Get more exercise
- Live a healthier lifestyle
- Save money
- Make new friends
- Eat healthier foods
- Have more fun?

An allotment can tick all these boxes in one go.

Research by Westminster & Essex University has recently proved that tending an allotment for only half an hour a day has major benefits for both the body and brain. Digging, weeding and just pottering around helps lift feelings of tension and depression – leading to better moods and higher self-esteem.

The physical exercise involved also reduces body fat and the risk of health problems including heart disease. People also felt significantly more satisfied with life, a key indicator of mental health. 'Health organisations and policy makers should consider the potential of allotment gardening as a tool for combating ill-health'.

Our facilities include:

- Two allotment fields
- New water supply
- Composting area
- Community picnic and barbeque area
- A group of friendly helpful residents

So what are you waiting for?

Apply for an allotment now.

Martin Dolton, Churchill Parish Clerk
Tel: **01934 316 333/07399 523 961**
email: clerk@churchillpc.org.uk



Down at the village allotment

With summer upon us the allotment holders have been busy planting out this season vegetables, with runner bean climbing the canes, broad beans in flower and brassieres hidden by netting in the hope to keep out the dreaded cabbage white butterflies.

Strawberries seem to be plentiful this year and shining like red jewels underneath their lush green leaves, giving Cheddar growers a run for their money with supplies. All the tenants seem to have a bumper yield of crops waiting to mature this year, there will be some oversized onions, runner beans, peas and courgettes by the basket full, allotment holders will be freezing and pickling all types of produce (hopefully some of them will enter their produce into this year's Village Show on Saturday 10 September in the hope of walking away with a first, second or third prize or even a trophy).

With the newly installed water supply to both fields courtesy of the Parish Council it will make life a lot easier for the growers during the long hot summer weather.

The allotment site also boasts a new community area which has a large shed which has a gardening book sharing scheme, along with an outside barbecue and seating area that enables the allotment holders to host social events and talk about their planting success and failures after their long hard day of digging and weeding. What better way to relax with likeminded friends than to have something to eat a few drinks and a good conversation? Well done and cheers to you all.

If you would like to join in the fun at the allotments and grow specimen vegetables for next years Village Show, we have a few plots left, for details please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@churchillpc.org.uk

Elderly grandmothers' marathon to Mend the Gap!

This is an urgent call to action made by us, two ordinary elderly grandmothers! We want to make a massive difference to the lives of rural Kenyan children and mend the gap. We, Sylvia Pain of Langford Village, and Anne Hutchings of Sandford Village in Somerset, have seen and helped Mend the Gap charity grow from its first tender steps in the noughties when Sylvia first went to Kenya and saw the plight of the children in the remote Bochoroke Village in Kenya. Since then, Sylvia and her friends have kept close contact with the village and worked tirelessly to raise money to support

the Bochoroke village and the early childhood development and infant school they have built.

A few years later, Anne joined Sylvia's efforts to support Mend the Gap and these children in the remote regions of Kisii and Masai Mara regions in Kenya. Having both grown up during the war years, we could empathise with the children of the Bochoroke village. Using our baking, cooking, designing, sewing, knitting, stitching and crocheting skills, we have continuously raised funds and school uniforms to support the children. We have convinced a

number of ladies (and a few grandfathers too!) locally and in surrounding villages including Kewstoke and Worle in Weston-super-Mare, Axbridge, Clevedon, Portishead, Sandford, Langford and Churchill villages in Somerset (to name but a few) to join us in knitting jumpers for the isolated and rural schools and students that Mend the Gap supports and links to schools in UK, especially in Avon and Somerset. As students from the linked schools travel to Kenya every summer, they carry these jumpers and other donated items to their schools. More knitters are needed to support the knitting marathon as are more schools to be linked to support this very worthy cause. More about Mend the Gap and the marathon can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/masaimarakenyamarathon/>

As Sylvia throws the age gauntlet and flies to Kenya to participate in the series of Masai Mara Kenya marathon events, Anne is redoubling her efforts in continuing with knitting Marathon! Anne has forfeited all presents for her 80 birthday towards a donation to Mend the Gap! Like always, Sylvia is paying for her air ticket and upkeep whilst in Kenya. She will do the 5k walk in the event.

Please support our marathon efforts by providing whatever donation you can for our joint fundraising effort at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/sylviapainandannehutchings!> If you would like to join the marathon in Kenya or in knitting jumpers in UK, please email events@mendthegap.org.uk or call Sylvia Pain on 01934 853 078 or Naftali Mandela on 07572 432 833. Every little helps and we have seen what a difference it makes to the lives of the children! If you feel challenged to join any or all of the 1k, 5k, 10k walks and have a fantastic family holiday in Kenya's world famous Masa Mara amongst graceful giraffes please sign up at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/masaimarakenyamarathon2016/298674>

Through BT My Donate, you can sponsor us to undertake our chosen marathons. Your donations will be quickly processed and passed to Mend the Gap. BT My Donate does not change anything except for the actual cost of transfer of the funds to Mend the Gap's account and will claim gift aid on the charity's behalf where the donor is eligible for this. We really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations.

Your councillors

- Mrs Jackie Bush (Chair)**
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langford.madhouse@gmail.com
- Mr Bill Carruthers**
01934 853 066
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- Mr Dev Clutterbuck**
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- Mr Simon Glanfield**
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- Mr Simon Hegarty**
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- Mr Brenden Hill (Vice Chair)**
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- Mr David Hurst**
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- Mrs Valerie Langley**
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- Mrs Sue List**
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- Mr Alan Lovell**
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- Mrs Trudy Silverton**
01934 852 240
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- Mrs Elizabeth Wells**
(District Councillor)
01934 852 227

Thanks in advance and warm regards! Mrs Sylvia Pain and Mrs Anne Hutchings



Coffee & Cake Day in aid of

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Weston Hospicecare

Saturday 3 September 2016 • 11am – 3pm

at CV Gower Funeral Directors, The Square, Winscombe BS25 1BS • Tel: 01934 842 945

Join us for coffee, cake and a BBQ. Also face painting, a raffle, tombola, bouncy castle and some fun games to play.

Further information Lindsay or Jenny 01934 842 945
www.gowers.coffeeandcakeday.muchloved.com

Other contacts

- Clerk of the Council:**
Martin Dolton
01934 316 333/07399 523 961
clerk@churchillpc.org.uk
- Parish Orderly: Michele Miles**
07799 642 676
- Tree Wardens:**
Kate Johns 07753 809 482
Ben Vosper 01934 852 679
- Police: Non emergency** 101
Police: Emergency 999
- War Memorial Hall booking**
Mimi Simpson 01934 853 282
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