

# Charlton Marshall News November 2008

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**GIRL GUIDING UK.** Rainbows for ages 5-7 are the youngest section of the Girl Guides Association; they meet in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 4.15 to 5.30 pm led by Elizabeth Pickering 01258 453156. Their programme called 'Rainbow Jigsaw' features indoor and outdoor events including games, cooking, and craft, with the emphasis on development and learning new skills by having fun together.

Brownies for ages 7-10 meet in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 5.30 to 7.00 pm led by Elizabeth Colls 01258 488685. Nationally Brownies are running a project called 'Change the World' which the girls enjoy being part of. Locally this summer together with several units from Blandford they were part of a 70 strong group that had a day out on Brownsea Island. They also had a four night pack holiday with Child Okeford Brownies at Ansty Village Hall with plenty of opportunity for fun and games.

Brownies could use some additional adult leaders; if you have past experience or would like to find out more, please ring Elizabeth Colls on 488685.

Rainbows and Brownies both have vacancies at present; if you would like your child to join please contact the appropriate leader.



## WE HAD A PARTY!

Around 40 people gathered on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct to say 'thank you' to Jonathan Whittle for his 3½ years behind the Post Office counter. There was also a slide show

from Norman Carey recalling the story of the PO from the early 1900s.

From Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov the Church Room will be open from 10.30 to 12.30 for coffee, computers, cakes, cards, stamps and stationery.

Wednesday afternoons 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Norman Carey will be giving guidance on digital cameras and computers; booking required.



**THE POST OFFICE.** We lost the fight to keep the Post Office open - no surprise there - but at least we did all we could; to do nothing was not an option and we should be grateful to all who wrote letters, attended meetings, and marched. It was standing room only at the Church Room for the public meeting and all age groups were well represented on the protest walk. We must now work at maintaining the Church Room as an active Village Centre. See below for next steps.



**NEXT STEPS.** On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. some Parish Councillors, Parochial Church Council members, the Church Warden and others met with our MP and County and District Councillors.

Current use includes collection of Blackmore Vale Magazine and Three Villages News (TVN), coffee morning, eggs, fruit and vegetables when available, cakes, preserves, cards, secondhand books, information etc. and computer sessions.

The TVN is also duplicated and collated on the premises, the Art Club meets on Thursday afternoons, Whist Club, Lunch Club, Bingo, and Parish Council all use the premises.

The aim is to build on what already takes place developing the idea of a Village Centre, a sort of coffee shop where people can meet together, access a range of services, and keep in touch with local news and needs. Cards, stationery and books of stamps will still be available.

This of course means a need for additional volunteers. There is also a need for funding; some may be available externally but we shall need to be prepared to raise funds in the village if this is to be a worthwhile facility.

To offer help or find out more, contact: Pat Osborne 453516, Pam Higgins 488431, John Griffin 454653.

What do you think of the newsletter so far? We've published quarterly since last November. We said we would -

- Publish four times a year
- Deliver to every home and business in the parish
- Try to keep people informed of events and needs
- Give news from the Parish Council
- Invite clubs and voluntary groups to advertise their events and report on their activities

We achieved the four issues and thanks to our team of volunteers we believe we delivered to every home and business. Clubs and other groups - it's up to you to contact the editor if there is something you'd like to say.

Please answer the questions on the back, tear it off, and either leave it in the Church Room, give it to the clerk, the editor, or a councillor, or email your comments to [mk.cmanor@googlemail.com](mailto:mk.cmanor@googlemail.com). Thank you.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

- We still need someone to be responsible for telling the clerk of any problems with footpaths in the parish e.g. blocked, ploughed over etc.
  - We need a Tree Warden who might record trees of interest in the parish, check a tree in the conservation area when permission has been sought to do work on it, generally help to protect our trees.
  - We need a bus user to be a link on transport matters
- Further details or offers of help contact the Clerk.



**INFORMATION PACKS.** These were delivered with the last Newsletter. Thanks to the Community and Neighbourhood group for seeing this through. Now it's over to us. If you become aware that an item is out of date please amend your copy and advise the Parish Clerk; amendments will be published in the Newsletter. Whenever somebody moves in to a home near you get a copy of the Pack from the Parish Clerk and give it to your new neighbour - let people see the community is alive.

**THE VAS BY THE CHURCH.**

In spite of all sorts of assurances the Vehicle Activated Sign is still working only spasmodically. We'll stop being boring by reporting about it and we'll say no more until it's proved to work for at least 3 months.

**THE TRAILWAY EXTENSION** is now almost complete - the section across the last field to the by-pass still has to be done. Now we could do with someone to sponsor a seat, especially on the high point, for strollers to take in the wonderful views.

**Charlton  
Marshall  
History Project**  
Putting together our  
story

Does anyone have photographs or newspaper cuttings of people and events in the village up to say the 1980s?

Also we are very short of pictures of roads and buildings before modern alterations and developments.

If you can help please call 452872 or email [mk.cmanor@googlemail.com](mailto:mk.cmanor@googlemail.com)

**THE CHURCH** is being opened again during the day. (It had previously been closed because of vandalism). Please do feel free to go in if you want to. It's a very tranquil place, and it's good to have people making use of it - and of course keeping an eye on the building too!  
John Griffin. Church Warden.

**CHARLTON MARSHALL VILLAGE HALL**

The committee of the Hall would like to thank all the participants of the two fund-raising events that we have organised i.e. the Quiz nights in April this year then on October the 11<sup>th</sup>. With very good raffles on both occasions the total raised towards any future large maintenance costs for the hall is £542.70. We have been asked to run another Quiz in May next year and as the Quizmaster Paul Holloway is willing to arrange one - look out for a date in MAY 2009.

Roger Higgins Treasurer.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**August**

- Blandford Leisure Centre. Suggestions for covering funding gap; presentations to be made to Town and Parish Councils.
- Youth Bus. Council Chairman Ian Rodd presented certificates from the Dorset Awards Scheme at the youth Summer Ball.
- Allotments. Council to monitor situation re possible eviction of tenants from Blandford town Council allotments.

**September**

- Greenfield Road. Ongoing issues with parked cars and the situation at the former exit.
- Proposal from DCC re repairs to lay-by near church.
- Red Phone Boxes. Letter received re options for retaining.

**October**

- Tree Warden. The present tree warden has had to resign due to ill-health.
- Youth Project. Meetings held and plans moving ahead.
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**DRIVE 55 PLUS - Free pilot scheme**

Courses designed to refresh and update your driving skills. Drive 55 Plus is a joint initiative, of the three local authorities in Dorset, to reduce the numbers of drivers aged 55 plus injured on our roads.

A half day (3 hour) Driver Refresher Course aims to help drivers update their knowledge and skills. No driving is involved. The group discussions include: new driving techniques; changes in the law and Highway Code; keeping fit to drive; motorways and roundabouts There is a course on Wednesday 10 December 2pm Corfe Mullen Village Hall and on various dates in Bournemouth, Upton House Poole, and other Dorset towns. See [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com).

A limited number of practical driver refresher courses are also available free of charge (usually £35), full details are available at the courses.

To book your place contact the: Road Safety Team, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ Telephone 01305 224558 or email [roadsafety@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@dorsetcc.gov.uk).

Please put a circle round your answers.

Is four issues a year - Too many? Too few? About right?

Do you feel you know more about what goes on because of the Newsletter? Yes No

Are there issues you would like us to cover?

Any other comments:

Can you contribute an item? Occasionally? Regularly?

Can you help deliver? Yes No

If 'yes' to either of these please give phone or email contact. Thank you.

