

Charlton Marshall News May 2009

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Clerk to the Council: Pam Higgins Tel. 488431. Editorial Matters: Mark Churchill Tel. 452872



Chairman's report

Year ended 31 March 2009

Another year has passed and I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for giving up precious amounts of their time, including those who have left and those who have joined the council during the year. Pam Higgins has settled in well as Parish Clerk and has brought enthusiasm and drive to the role, taking a keen interest in many parish matters. If you find that you have a small amount of time to offer your community, I would like to hear from you, as we currently have a vacancy on the Parish Council.

An important outcome of the Community Project was the information pack distributed to households throughout the village, however if you did not receive one, please contact Pam. To continue to improve communication we have developed a website and hope this will encourage involvement in village activities.

The coffee mornings and other events at the church room have proved to be very popular. We all made a concerted effort to save the Post Office and so it is encouraging to see that there are other uses for the room that are well supported and appreciated.

The Parish Council has obtained the lease of the field surrounding the children's play area at Hopegood Close. We are responsible for the maintenance, and can enjoy the benefits if we can find ways to utilize the land effectively. Your council will be looking to develop use of the open space for the benefit of all.

We have been very pleased that the effort put into the youth activities has resulted in the launch of a new youth club. The Youth Project has taken up a lot of time, both from the individuals involved and the Parish Council as a whole, but we are hopeful that this is the start of an important phase in the development of the village.

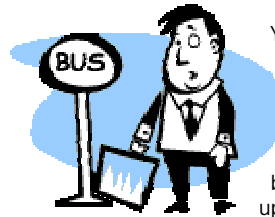
Ian Rodd.



Christian Aid Week runs from 10th to 16th May this year when volunteers will drop red envelopes through most letter boxes in the parish. Please be generous and remember that in the hard times it's the poorest who suffer most. Help tackle poverty and injustice around the world. Find out more at

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>. or www.caweek.org.

The Dorset County Council's Mobile Library is in the village fortnightly on Fridays; there is always a flyer in the Church Room giving dates. You can use the library outside the Church Room from 09.45 to 10.40 and in May Grove from 10.45 to 11.00. Next visits are May 8th and 22nd.



You may have noticed earlier in the year that the bus stop posts throughout the parish were painted and new smaller timetable holders were put on them. Interestingly, after that, Damory timetables, that had never been in the old larger holders, were put up along with the Wilts and Dorset ones.

Unfortunately there obviously wasn't room to put all of them in each frame but you can view the full set by walking along Bournemouth road and peering at each holder! It's a bit of an initiative test because they don't all seem to be on the relevant side of the road; for example the 314 Tuesday service to Salisbury appears in the holder outside the Charlton Inn but not in the holder outside the Church Room where the bus will pick you up! The Nordcat service 83 between Wimborne and Shaftesbury isn't advertised at all so here are the main services through the parish.

Bournemouth Road.

Daily. X8 between Poole and Blandford
Monday to Saturday. 83 between Shaftesbury and Wimborne
Saturday 09.43 & 14.46. 310 to Bournemouth
Tuesday 09.09. 314 to Salisbury (back at 15.17)
Wednesday 09.36. 315 to Ringwood (back at 14.25)
Thursday 10.08 summer half term and school holiday. 35 to Corfe Castle and Swanage (back at 16.45)
Friday 09.09. 330 to Sherborne and Yeovil (back at 15.17)
Friday 09.09 half terms and school holidays except winter. 330 to Street and Glastonbury (back at 15.47)

Dorchester Road.

Daily. 184 between Salisbury and Weymouth
Monday 10.10 summer half term and school holiday. 45 to Monkey World and Weymouth (back at 16.43)

All services except the 35 and 45 can also be caught at Tesco.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW IN THE CHURCH ROOM?

- Coffee Drop-in Monday to Friday 10.30 to 12.30
- Computer coaching Monday to Thursday 10.30 to 12.30
- Whist Club Monday 7.30pm
- Youth Club on 2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly; support and fundraising for equipment always welcome.
- Art Class Thursday 2.00 to 4.00pm
- Art Chat 2nd Friday monthly 10.30 to 12.30 with Wynn Pullen our local artist
- Lunch Club 1st Friday monthly 1.00 pm, thriving.
- Bingo 1st Friday monthly 7.00pm

There are now forty-plus volunteers taking on specific areas of responsibility and providing opportunity for people to meet, socialize, have coffee, get local information and magazines, buy stamps, stationery, cards, second-hand books, and home made produce. Our thanks to all who contribute in so many different ways. The reconditioned floor enhances the social environment and the new card tables are appreciated by the whist players and others.

Post Office lost but Church Room developing very much as a community managed and sustained facility for our village. Ideas, enquiries or voluntary help, always welcome. Contact; Pat Osborne 453516.

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Some of the work that we asked the Parish Maintenance Unit to do in the village has been completed; the rest is being followed up.

THE THREE VILLAGES NEWS is a monthly magazine for the villages of Charlton Marshall, Spetisbury and Blandford St Mary, produced by volunteers. It is published monthly - A4 size and up to 24 pages. The cost is £5 per year, delivered to your door and is a great way of keeping up to date with what is going on in the three villages. It contains publicity for local events, reports from the Parish Councils, and items of local relevance such as natural history, astronomy, weather notes and village and church news.

Anyone from the villages can advertise in it at a very reasonable cost - 50p per line for personal advertisements and a few pounds for businesses. You will reach about 600 households this way and the income enables the cost of the magazine to be kept down.

If you want to see a copy there are generally spare ones in the Church Room (50p). We hope you will decide to become a subscriber, if so then contact one of the editors to find out who delivers in your area. The magazine is only as good as the entries the editors receive, so do also please use it to publicise local events and do send us any other local news. Editors: Ann Taylor, ammataylor@yahoo.co.uk, Tel 857336 Janet Isaac, isaac.eagles@googlemail.com, Tel 857759

Highlights from Parish Council Meetings.

February

- Terry Vine from Dorset Youth Association attended a meeting re Youth Club; public meeting to be called.
- A resident has offered help to set up a village web site.

March

- Millennium tapestry in Church Room; request Parochial Church Council to accept responsibility.
- Agreed to buy new 'springy toy' for play area.
- Parish Maintenance Unit. Six jobs identified by residents.
- Youth Club. Volunteers attended a Child Protection course run by Dorset Youth Association. Committee formed at Public Meeting on 26th February.

April

- Councillor Weatherly-Barton has resigned due to other commitments.
- £50 received from Big Sing for Youth Development Fund.
- Disco on 16th April to mark opening of new Youth Club.

NEW RESIDENTS. If you are new to the village or you know somebody who is, please ask the Clerk for an Information Pack.



The problem of dog mess is still very much with us - especially on the trailway but also on some other tracks. Some dog walkers seem to have little consideration for other people or the law, but thank you to all who do pick up.

One of the people who returned a survey form last year said they could write a piece for the newsletter occasionally but didn't say who they are - please get in touch.

The Parish Council launched the Charlton Marshall Village website in April. It has details from the Village Information Pack and Parish Newsletters, and a comprehensive "What's On" and will soon feature village history. It is in its early days and will benefit greatly from your contributions, so please take a look at www.charltonmarshall.org.uk and you're your suggestions for any improvements or additions to moderator@charltonmarshall.org.uk.

YOUTH CLUB for 10 to 16 year olds on 2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly, 7 pm to 9 pm; affiliated to the Dorset Youth Association, with local voluntary youth leader, workers and committee. Membership £1, plus £1 per evening. Contact telephone: 07 500 365972.

A WALK FOR A SUMMER EVENING (or any other time)
1¼ hours upwards depending how fast you walk and how many times you stop.

Walk along the trailway towards Blandford. When you get to the T junction at Blandford St Mary (Ward's Drove) turn left up the drove and go over the hill as far as the cottages on the left in the valley. Beyond the cottages turn left into the bridleway; when you get to the farm, bear right through the yard and continue to the T junction at Littleton Drove, which is tarred. Go left for a few yards until you find a field gate on your right. Go through the gate and the footpath goes straight across the field to the gap in the hedge on the far side. Continue across the second field heading for the corner of the wall at the rear of Birch Close Farm. Walk out on to Park Hill, cross it and continue down the lane opposite, heading for Lower Cottage, which you will pass on your right just before you reach a T junction (which can be very muddy after rain). Turn left up the track, go over the hill and come down Church Lane to Charlton Marshall. Happy walking.

INTERNET CAFÉ. I have just retuned the figures to Dorset County Council for the number of people using the computers in the last six months and it is very encouraging. Dorset CC was one of the funders for the computers and they want to know if the money they have spent is being used well. We have had 143 visits from people over fifty and 32 from people under fifty to use the computers. Jean Vesey and I joined as volunteers in Feb/March time and have undertaken our Mentoring training with Connecting Dorset, which was a very enjoyable course. So we are here waiting for you, along with the other dedicated volunteers. Maybe next month we could run to a picture of us all?!

I have been working with a few people with no previous computer skills who have been able to produce useful things like a poster for a group they are involved with, so along with email, the internet, (looking for holidays, who to complain to about something, Ebay) there are lots of things to do. One fun thing has been jigsaw puzzles where you can move all the pieces on the screen at a touch to do the puzzle. That and a coffee and a chat have been another way of enjoying time together with a friendly bunch of people. Looking forward to seeing you. Marice The IT Girl.

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We would like to complete the archive of our parish magazines at the Dorset History Centre. If you have any copies earlier than 1991 and would be willing to pass them on for safe keeping, please contact Janet Isaac on 857759.

CHARLTON MARSHALL PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Charlton Marshall Parish Council is looking for a candidate to replace Councillor Weatherly-Barton who has recently resigned due to personal commitments.

The Parish Council meets twelve times per year on the first Tuesday of every month (apart from Bank holidays). For more information regarding the commitment required please contact Pam Higgins,

Clerk to the Council. Tel.01258 488431.