



# Chorleywood Matters



Issue No 23 Spring 2011

NEWS & VIEWS FROM CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Community involvement has been identified as being a high priority in the Common Management Plan and the benefit of volunteers recognised. The Friends of Chorleywood Common have organised working parties in the past and plans for future projects are underway.

We know that, while some volunteers revel in being up to their waists in pond weed, it's not everyone's cup of tea. However, there are less physically demanding tasks on the Common where we and the F.O.C.C. would welcome the help of local volunteers.

Would you be interested in carrying out fixed point photography – photographing selected areas of the Common from a fixed view point once a month over the period of a year?

We also need to survey all the signage on the Common – where the signs are, their condition and what information they carry – so that we can update and rationalise them. Could you help with this?

When the cattle are on the Common, could you be a “looker” – walk past the grazing area once a day and check that the animals are OK?

If you feel you could volunteer and help out on future projects, please contact either F.O.C.C. or Claire James at the Parish Office.



Councillor's contact details are available from the Parish Council Office or from the Council's Website.

Parish Office Chorleywood Parish Council, South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5SL

Tel: 01923 285594 Fax: 01923 285633 e-mail: [info@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk)

[www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk)



## COUNCIL PRECEPT 2011-12

As residents of Chorleywood are aware, we are living in harsh economic times, a situation the Parish Council has taken into consideration when setting its precept for the next financial year, which starts on April 1st. The Precept is the tax you are charged for the work of the Parish Council and is collected by the District Council with your Council Tax.

Our aim has been to keep increases to a minimum whilst at the same time maintaining services, a balancing act which is always difficult, even when inflation is low. After much careful consideration, the Council has decided to hold the total precept figure at £338,500, the same amount as for 2010-11. So, allowing for any changes in the tax base (the way the total is apportioned across the various council tax bands) there should be little or no change in the amount each resident pays towards the Parish in the coming year.

## THE COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Council would like to thank those parishioners who responded to the public consultation. Your comments were reviewed by the Open Spaces Committee at their meeting on January 18th, when the Committee agreed certain alterations to the draft text. The final version will now be put together and will be approved for publication at the Open Spaces meeting on March 8th.

This will then be the working document for the future management of the grassland, woodland and ponds, together with improvements in signage and information on work in progress, over the next five years.

This is the third update of the Common Management Plan since its inception in 1993. The original document, however, still remains the basis of all the updates, holding all the historical and environmental information on the Common. The updates cover the changes in the work programmes and reflect changes in national policy and legislation affecting common land.



## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR ON THE GRAPEVINE!

The Parish Council would like to address the totally unfounded rumours which were recently circulating regarding the future of the permissive horsetrack on the Common. Those who have read the draft of the Management Plan Update will have been clearly able to see that no new management is proposed for this area.

The Council has never expressed any intention of closing the track and no mention of any proposed closure was included anywhere in the draft text.

The Parish Council staff and councillors are easily accessible to the community. You can come into the Office or phone or e-mail any of us if you are worried about what you may have been told the Council is doing. Please, the next time you hear this kind of rumour, take a moment to check with us to see whether there is any truth in what's on the grapevine.

## C-DAY

What will happen on Sunday March 27th, cost four hundred and eighty two million pounds, need a staff of forty thousand and require all of us to take part? Anyone who refuses to do so may be interviewed under caution by a "non-compliance officer" and may be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

It is, of course, the Census, the national population survey, which is carried out every ten years by the Office of National Statistics and provides government with the statistical information it requires to plan the country's needs for the next ten years. It consists of a questionnaire which every household in the country is obliged to complete. Although the statistical information is made available to government as soon as it has been assessed, all personal information the census responses contain remains confidential for 100 years.

Don't forget to fill in and return your form. In a hundred years time, when your descendants are researching their family trees, they'll thank you for it.

## LATE NIGHT SHOPPING 2010

Held on December 3rd 2010, this was definitely the coldest Late Night Shopping Evening we have had, although the adverse weather conditions did not so much reduce the number of people who came but did cut down the length of time they stayed. Some stallholders coming from outside the area were understandably forced to cancel because of the travelling conditions but it was disappointing that some of the local shops did not stay open.

However, others took part with enthusiasm, Chorleywood Book Shop provided live music and competitions for the children, Higgins supplied their excellent pig roast and our splendid range of food stores kept us going with everything from pizza to hot cider and mulled wine.

Our thanks go especially to Binks Estate Agents for taking on the running of Santa's Grotto and the local resident Patrick Leventon who answered our appeal for a new Santa.

Thanks also to Budgens for providing the hamper and Higgins for generously supplying power for the Council's mobile unit.



## VILLAGE DAY 2011

This year's Village Day will be held on Saturday 9th July. After the success of the 2010 event, pitches are already being booked, so if you want to set up your stall at Village Day this year, contact the Parish Office and get your booking in as soon as possible.

We would also like to hear from local groups who would like the opportunity to display their skills in the Arena during the afternoon - dance classes, martial arts, football skills, choirs, bands, music groups - come and show off your talent.

Get in touch with Diane Horwood at the Parish Office.

## SPONSOR A HANGING BASKET

The shopping area of Chorleywood has benefited for some years from the flowers in the sixteen hanging baskets along Lower Road. Are you able to help this display continue by sponsoring one or more of these baskets this year? The cost of each basket is £125 which includes the planting and maintenance for the year. For more information please contact the Parish Office.

## CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

The first Parish Council Charity Quiz Night took place at the War Memorial Hall on Saturday 13th November 2010. The Hall was packed (we had to turn down table bookings because the Hall was full up). The evening was a tremendous success, raising over £5,000 for local charities. Nineteen charities were represented on the night and the Macmillan Nurses received the top prize of £500. The Parish Council gave the Hall free of charge for the event and also provided the food, so that all the money taken on the door and at the Auction of Promises was distributed across the rest of the charities, each receiving a cheque for £250. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Chorleywood who supported this event.

The Parish Council is planning to repeat this event later this year on November 12th. If you are willing to represent a local charity and enjoy taking part in a Quiz, please get this date in your diary now. More information about this year's Quiz Night, including how to make donations or reserve tables will be published after Easter. We need your support to make this event a success and our warm thanks go to all those who took part in the inaugural Charity Quiz Night.

