



WHAT WAS THE FILMING ABOUT ON THE COMMON?...

Is a question the Parish Office has been asked over the past few days. We will not spoil the plot but we can advise that the filming was commissioned by BBC 1 for a three part legal thriller called The Escape Artist starring David Tennant (of Dr Who fame), Sophie Okonodeo and Toby Kebbell.

Filming took place at the Black Horse pub on Dog Kennel Lane and at the War Memorial Hall. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience the filming caused and like to thank everyone for their patience. Special thanks go to the Ladies of Chorleywood Golf Club and to Angela Thorpe from Body Conditioning and Carol Kristian Theatre School who had to make alternative arrangements at short notice, as they were unable to use the Hall.

The show is likely to be screened in late summer early autumn.



2013 VILLAGE DAY

**SATURDAY 13TH JULY
12 NOON - 4PM**



Applications now being taken for stalls, advertising space in the brochure and spaces in the arena.

For further information please contact the parish office

01923 285594

Email finance@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk

Councillor's contact details are available from the Parish Council Officers, Parish notice boards, or from the Council's Website.

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Chorleywood Matters



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NEWS & VIEWS FROM CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Precept is the tax set by the Parish Council to finance its functions and services to the community and is collected by the District Council as part of the Council Tax.

Changes to legislation means that the way the precept is calculated has changed. The tax base calculation (the equivalent of Band D properties) now takes into account all those properties in receipt of housing benefit, thus reducing the amount of money received by the parish Council. However this year TRDC have agreed to grant fund the parish council for the shortfall, meaning that for the fifth year running there will be no increase to the cost of the precept per household. It will remain at £56.11 per Band D property.

The Council is grateful to its administrative staff for their hard work in reducing the Council's costs by careful budgeting and negotiating better deals with the Council's service providers, which will enable us to continue to offer a good service to the community.

WHAT DO THEY DO ON THAT PARISH COUNCIL?

Well, how about appearing on BBC 4's Farming Today programme, doing battle with Railtrack and discussing plans for a children's playground, which are just a few of the highlights of the past year for Chorleywood Parish Council.

"Farming Today" wanted to interview a member of the Council about cattle grazing on the Common to put the counter argument to the Open Spaces Society view. This initiative is supported by the Parish Council because grazing with cattle is good for chalk grassland. (Our Common is one of the few such unspoiled grasslands left in the country.) It is, however, an issue that has divided the community and remains as yet unresolved.

The Open Spaces Committee is currently working with Three Rivers District Council, parents, residents and Natural England about a possible site for a

children's play area on the Common. Designated a "Local Nature Reserve" because of its special wildlife habitats, the Common is one of Chorleywood's best assets. The problem the Parish Council has is resolving the clashes of interest between the needs of residents for recreation and exercise, the Local Nature Reserve requirements to conserve and enhance its wildlife habitats and the laws that govern English Common Land.

The Parish Council is also winning its battle with Railtrack, who, after twelve months, have failed to remove a "temporary" generator from its spot by Shepherd's Bridge, an area which is both Common Land and Conservation Area.

The Parish Council would welcome any enquiries from residents and can really help fight red tape. If you have a problem, we could be part of your solution – all you have to do is ask (and if we ourselves cannot help, we can almost certainly put you in touch with someone who can). One Parish Councillor said, "I would really recommend the role of a parish councillor to others. It's not about formal qualifications; it's about having time, caring for your community and listening to people."



WORKS ON THE CHURCH POND

Yes, we know it now looks like a bomb crater, but radical surgery was necessary to save the patient!

The Church Pond was polluted by road run-off from an old drain running into it from the A404, which deposited a deep layer of silt containing toxic minerals, plus a high level of nitrates. This high nutrient level stimulated the growth of a thick layer of Duckweed, which stopped light from penetrating the surface of the water, preventing the growth of aquatic plants and reducing the oxygen levels so that wildlife could not live in it. The pond was dying!

The answer has been to pump out the water and remove the contaminated silt, which will be stored in a bunded area while it dries, when it will be removed to a special waste site. The rest of the silt will be removed and allowed to partially dry before being spread on nearby brush piles to create over-wintering refuges for newts and other amphibians.

This will take the pond back to the beginning of its life-cycle, as detailed in the latest Common Management Plan. It will be left to refill naturally, as mains water cannot be used, and may therefore take a while to return to its original depth.

A new drainage and water filtration system will be added once the work is completed, which should put paid to any further Duckweed incursion and the pond will regenerate naturally.

All these works have been approved by Natural England, the Chilterns Conservation Board and Herts. County Council, who have all helped to fund the project.

VIRTUAL FENCING

Since there have been so many problems, objections and conflicting laws and regulations about fencing on the Common to enable Larks' Meadow to be grazed by cattle, the Parish Council have been exploring a different method of enclosing the grazing area.

Virtual Fencing has been used on the Continent for some time now and recently the City of London has been installing it on its land at Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest. It consists of an electric cable, which works in the same way as a standard electric fence, except that it is buried in the ground. The cattle wear collars which react to the electric current. As the cattle approach the perimeter of the grazing area, they first trigger a warning buzzer. If they then go any closer, they get a mild shock, just as they would if they touched an above ground electric fence.

The cattle learn very quickly what the buzzer means and also quickly learn where the limit of their area is and keep away. The cable has no effect on people or any other animals.

Members of the Council are making visits to Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest in the near future to view this system in action, before deciding whether to proceed further.



DR. NORMAN EVE

It is with sadness that the Parish Council has to report the death of Councillor Dr. Norman Eve. He first joined the Chorleywood Parish Council in 1992 following the change to the Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire County Boundary from Shire Lane to its current position. Cllr. Dr. Eve always stood as an independent and fought for the residents of Chenies Estate. Whether it was preserving the Horse Track in Chalfont Lane or ensuring that the highest standard of English grammar was used in Parish Council communications, his commitment and common sense earned the respect of all his colleagues. Cllr. Dr. Eve's contribution to his community will be sorely missed.

DOG CONTROL ON THE COMMON

We all want to enjoy our wonderful open spaces in Chorleywood but, unfortunately, this pleasure is often spoiled by people who do not keep their dogs under control or do not clear up after them. The Parish Council receive many complaints about dog fouling on the Common and one elderly lady has now been knocked over twice by a large dog. TRDC have the same problem on Chorleywood House Estate. Many complaints relate to professional dog walkers who are often in charge of eight or more dogs and who do not always put these dogs on leads and do not clear up after them.

NEWS FLASH

- A by-election has been called for Chorleywood Chenies Ward, following the death of Cllr Dr. Norman Eve. The election will take place on Thursday 21st March 2013. The polling station, First Chorleywood Scout Headquarters, Orchard Drive, Chorleywood, will be open from 7 am to 10 pm. Notice of the Poll and candidate details are available on the Parish notice boards and the Parish and Three Rivers websites.
- The Parish Council has reported the state of the Phone Box on the A404 to BT and they have promised to investigate and repair as necessary.
- The Parish Council is looking for someone to help with odd jobs and on occasions assist the caretakers at our halls. Please contact the Parish Council for more information.
- At the time of going to press we can advise that the generator by the railway has at last been removed.
- Applications now being taken for this year's Village Day which will be held on Saturday 13th July 2013.

Now Chorleywood Parish Council will be working together with TRDC to run a pilot scheme which will introduce Dog Control Orders under the 2005 Act in Chorleywood House Estate and on Chorleywood Common.

Under the scheme the number of dogs in the charge of one person would be limited to four, which should be less intimidating for other people walking in the area. Under the Act those in charge of several dogs can also be required to keep their dogs on a lead. All people walking dogs will be required to clear up after their animals.

The PCSOs, under their new powers, are authorised to enforce Dog Control Orders under the 2005 Act and will be able to issue fixed penalty notices for persistent infringement.