



Chorleywood Matters



Issue No 14 Spring 2009

NEWS & VIEWS FROM CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Parish Council has been asked to look into the history of the Swillett Social Club Building, in Stag Lane. If anyone knows any details please contact the Parish Office.
- The Parish Council continues in its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. New double glazed windows have been fitted to the Royal British Legion Hall.
- The Parish Council's mess room is almost complete which will give the Parish Rangers proper rest room facilities.
- National Air Traffic Services (NATS) – The proposals to revise the flight paths and stacking areas over South East England has been scrapped and a new series of plans and consultation documents will be drawn up. In the original proposals two flight paths travelled directly over Chorleywood and Sarratt, which would have had a detrimental effect on current noise levels within the parish. These plans were strongly objected to by the Parish Council.
- To help with energy efficiency, TRDC has sponsored energy efficient light bulbs and draft excluder tape. These are available free of charge from the parish office which is open Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm.

CHANGES IN PLANNING REGULATIONS

Although the number of planning applications has fallen lately there are still seventeen Parish Planning Meetings in the yearly calendar. There has been an important amendment to planning permission requirements. From the 1st October 2008 an extension or addition to your home may be considered to be permitted development, not requiring an application for planning permission. We do suggest obtaining advice from the Local Planning Authority at TRDC prior to making an application. Please be aware however, that building control regulations will still apply.

CHORLEYWOOD CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket Club's planning application to move their pitch further away from the A404, subject to certain conditions, has been successful. This means that the club can move on to obtaining the necessary consents for "works on Common Land" from the Planning Inspectorate and from the Parish Council as landowner. An Advisory Committee has been set up to consider all aspects of the project, as required, to ensure that the project is completed with minimal impact on Chorleywood residents' right of access and the Common's important ecological assets are protected and preserved.

Local Cattle for the Common

We are delighted to report that a local grazier, Mr Colin Howard, of Hall Farm, Berry Lane, has offered to supply his Aberdeen Angus cattle for the grazing trial on the Common this Spring. The proximity of Hall Farm to the Common means that it should be possible to bring the cattle onto the Common the old-fashioned way, by driving them down the road and onto the Common through the cattle creep. Due precautions will be taken to avoid problems during the short period the cattle are on the road.

We hope to be bringing the cattle on to the Lark Field area in late March/early April. The final timing will depend on how quickly the grass recovers after the unexpectedly hard winter. The cattle will be confined within electric fences and access to the grazing area will be through temporary kissing gates. The trial will last for a maximum of six weeks, but may be for a shorter period, depending again on the condition of the grass.

As soon as arrangements are finalised, the Council will inform residents of all the details and we hope to organise a "Meet the Cattle Day" where the rangers, councillors, Council staff and experts from several environmental organisations will be available to answer your questions on conservation grazing. Please watch the Council website www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk for ongoing information on the grazing project.



PRECEPT

The Parish Council have agreed the budget for the forthcoming year. Ever mindful of the current financial situation that is facing us all, the primary consideration was to keep the increase as low as possible, without cutting back on services to the public. The Parish Council is solely funded by the community, with no help from central government. The taxes raised are called a precept and are collected with the Community Charge by TRDC. The Council have agreed to a precept of £337,000. The annual sum based on a band D property is £56.04 per annum, an increase of £3.46 per year or 6 pence per week.

Some of the projects where your money will be spent are to improve the décor in the War Memorial Hall, specifically in the kitchen and to set aside funding for new litter bins on the common.





Photograph provided by Chorleywood Residents Association

CHORLEYWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

At the end of February this year the first 24 apple trees were planted by volunteers in the new Chorleywood Community Orchard next to the Lawn Cemetery in Chorleywood House Estate.

Given time, these will grow into large trees capable of bearing large crops of fruit. Eleven unusual varieties were selected for taste, appearance and interest, including Bushey Grove and Ribston Pippin – an old variety from 1707 reputed to have six times as much vitamin C than a Golden Delicious!

Next year more Hertfordshire apple varieties will be added and the following year some plum, pear and cherry trees, taking the total number of trees in time to about 100.

Although there won't be fruit to enjoy for a while, the first Chorleywood Apple Day will be held on Saturday, 17th October, at the Summer House (near the tennis courts at the entrance to Chorleywood House Estate). You are invited to taste local apples, help press fresh apple juice and get your children involved in apple activities.

For more information or to get involved in the Community Orchard project, please contact: Alison Rubens on 01923 282937 or email to chorleywood.orchard@gmail.com

Village Day 2009

Plans are well underway for this year's Village Day which will be held on Saturday 11th July from 12 noon to 4pm. Many of the regulars are already supporting the day, together with some new exciting editions. Unfortunately there will be no dog show this year, as the Show Judge Jeff Paine has been suffering with ill health and cannot attend, we wish him a speedy recovery

and our thanks go to Bob Mullins at Oscar Pet Foods, who has sponsored the event over the past nine years. There will however be more fun and games with our canine friends in the shape of the organisation Guide Dogs for the Blind who will be giving demonstrations. They will be joined by performers from Chorleywood JMI School and many more surprises including Morris Dancing (to be confirmed). If you would like a stall or want any further details please contact Di Horwood at dihorwood@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk

COUNCIL CHANGES

It was with great regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Cllr. Fay Caplin, due to continuing ill health. Mrs. Caplin has contributed a great deal to the work of the Council, especially on planning matters, and she will be greatly missed by her colleagues. In her place we welcome Cllr. Mrs Alex Hayward, who will represent the residents in Cedars Ward. Her contact details as with all councillors are available on the parish web site www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

In response to requests from some residents, the Parish Council has agreed to include a new two-page directory of local services in Chorleywood Matters commencing with the summer edition. Local businesses and organisations who wish their details to be included should contact the Parish Office on 01923 285594 or email on info@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – (LDF)

Three Rivers District Council have published the LDF document for public consultation. This is part of a national initiative where local government can develop their aims and aspirations for the local community which may differ from national government policy. The topics covered include; Housing; Employment; Transport; Open Spaces and the Environment. Many of you will have taken part in the previous public consultation during 2006 and 2007 and these findings are included together with the conclusions reached.

Information can be found on the District Council's website, www.threerivers.gov.uk; or hard copies are available for inspection at the District Council's offices in Rickmansworth or at Chorleywood public library. Do take the opportunity to complete the questionnaire and have your views recorded before the **deadline of 30 March 2009.**

CHORLEYWOOD LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Crowds gathered and braved the cold weather to enjoy the festive season in Chorleywood, back in December. The Late Night Shopping evening was deemed a great success. Many of the shops entered into the spirit of the event by dressing their shop window to depict the season, the winner of the 'Best Dressed Shop Window' was for the third time the Peace Hospice, with Highly Commended awards going to Hopscotch and Eden. This was judged by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Marilyn Hampton and Cllr Chris Lloyd, Chairman of TRDC. Georgina West from Whitelands Avenue



Presentation to Fay Caplin, with Cllr Mrs Jackie Worrall and the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mrs Marilyn Hampton



Cllr Mrs Alex Hayward



Best dressed shop window Peace Hospice.

correctly named the cuddly toy 'Toffee' and took home the toy Labrador as a prize. The winner of the Christmas Hamper, sponsored by Budgens was Mr Coster from Hubbards Road. Visitors were entertained by the sounds from Watford Hospital Radio and the Choir from St Andrews spread Christmas cheer with a selection of Christmas Carols. As well as the shops remaining open, over twenty groups set up stalls and sold their wares, making a truly enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to all those who participated.

M25

Residents using the M25 will have noticed that prior to widening to four lanes between junctions 16 and 23 advanced works in the verge is being carried out. Also the contractor's site has been established in Berry Lane under the viaduct. Contractor's road vehicles will reach this site from Chorleywood Road via The Clump and Valley Road into Berry Lane and not via Dog Kennel Lane.