



Chorleywood Matters



Issue No 12 Summer 2008

News & views from Chorleywood Parish Council

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY! VILLAGE DAY



12TH JULY 2008
12 NOON TO 5PM

Located near the cricket ground on the A404 Chorleywood Road
Parking at Christ Church

Chorleywood Parish Council, South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road,
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5SL
Tel: 01923 285594 e-mail: info@chorleywood-pc.gov.uk



Council Changes

This year's Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on the evening of the 6th of May. The Council recorded its grateful thanks to the retiring Chairman, Cllr. Rodney Kipps, for all his hard work on behalf of the Council during the past year. The Chair has now passed to Cllr. Marilyn Hampton and Cllr. Richard Booth has been elected as Vice Chairman.

Membership of the Council's Committees is now as follows:

Planning: Cllr. Max Green (Chairman), Cllr. Watkins (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Kemp, Cllr. Kipps, Cllr. Mrs. Mytom-Hart, Cllr. Mrs. Stibbs, Cllr. Mrs. Worrall.

Open Spaces: Cllr. Mrs. Jarrett (Chairman), Cllr. Liley (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Barton, Cllr. Dr. Eve, Cllr. Mrs. Green, Cllr. Watkins and Cllr. Mrs. Worrall.

Village Halls: Cllr. Kipps (Chairman), Cllr Morris (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Dr. Eve, Cllr. Max Green, Cllr. Liley, Cllr. Mrs. Smith and Cllr. Mrs. Stibbs.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of all committees.



Policy and Resources: The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the committees, plus the outgoing Chairman, if not already a member.

The Council also appoints representatives to many outside bodies, including the Herts. Association of Parish and Town Councils, the Joint Parish Councils in Three Rivers, The Chiltern Open Air Museum, TRDC Environment Forum, Chorleywood Youth Club, Chorleywood Youth Football Club, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Chorleywood Twinning Association, among others.

The Council's Annual Report, detailing the Council's work over the past year, can be found in Chorleywood Library. Copies can also be obtained from the Parish Office or you can read it on the Council's website. If you want to know what we do on the Parish Council, please take time to have a look at this informative document.





Pied Piper Peter

In addition to his regular work on the Common, Peter Monahan, our Senior Common Ranger, has spent a great deal of time over the past year taking groups of school children around the Common, teaching them about its valuable habitats.

He has led one group each from Arnett Hills and Chorleywood Primary and the local Scout group. He also lead five common walks with pupils from Russell School. It is clear from the amazing letters which he received from the children that his efforts were well worth it and, thanks to him, a lot of our children now understand much more about their Common and its importance to the community. We are grateful to Peter for giving his time to our young people.

Ratty Returns to the Chess

Between 2001 and 2003 water vole numbers on the Chess crashed by 97%, largely as a result of mink predation, and it was feared we might lose Ratty from the river altogether. The Chilterns Chalk Stream Project and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust responded to the crisis by setting up the Water Vole Recovery Scheme and began a massive mink control programme on the Chess. Last September a survey along the river between Chorleywood and Chesham revealed a 74% increase in water vole numbers since the last survey in 2005. This recovery is due in large part to the co-operation of landowners and fishery managers along the river, who have put a great amount of time and effort into trapping mink. The water vole population on the Chess has now recovered to 32% of its size in 2001 and we hope to see their numbers continue to increase.



It may well be that the dog meant no harm, but the child did not know that and was seriously frightened. Please act responsibly if you are walking your dog where there are children.

In view of the number of complaints we have received about dog fouling on the Common, could we once again remind dog walkers to clear up after their pets. Dog faeces are a danger to other people, especially children. If children get dog mess on their hands and then rub their eyes the result can be permanent blindness. There are dog bins situated around the Common and poop scoops are available free from the Parish Office. Please consider other people when you are walking your dog and leave the Common clean and safe.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CONTROL

We have received a complaint from a mother who was walking her child across from Dog Kennel Lane to Christchurch School when a dog ran at the child. The little girl was frightened and tried to run away but the dog chased her. By the time the mother, who had another child in a buggy to cope with, managed to chase the dog away, the four year old was hysterical. Meanwhile the owner of the dog stood by and made no attempt to control their animal.

Could we remind dog owners that you are legally responsible for keeping your dog under control. If you exercise your dog on the Common it makes sense to keep your dog under control or on a lead where there are people and other animals, especially near the school where children are in the vicinity.

CRICKET

Members of the Council's Open Spaces Committee and the Cricket Club have been working together over the past months to find a solution to the problem of balls going into the road and are now agreed on a possible way forward. It is proposed that the cricket pitch be moved further into the Common away from the road. This, however, is not as straightforward as it might sound, as the acid grassland on the far side of the pitch is protected under a stewardship agreement with Natural England and there is also a considerable variation in levels in this area. Nevertheless, these problems are not insurmountable and careful discussion and much expert advice have resulted in plans to create a new square and to move the playing area. The Council have agreed to these proposals in principle, subject to planning permission being obtained and the agreement of DEFRA and Natural England, after which detailed conditions and work plans will be negotiated.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CMS Walk on Common

The Countryside Management Service is leading a walk on Thursday June 26th to explore the Common and learn more about its management and wildlife. The walk is from 11am - 1pm. Meet at Christchurch car park.

Sportsman Footpath

Do not forget that the public enquiry on the Sportsman Footpath begins at 10am on July 8th at the War Memorial Hall. See the Parish's website for details.

Photographic Competition

There is still time to submit your entry in for the Council's photographic competition and perhaps get your entry in the Chorleywood Calendar for 2009. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Waste Disposal Site - Correction

In the last edition of Chorleywood Matters we stated that TRDC was responsible for the upgrade of the Waste Transfer Site on Riverside Drive. We apologise for the inaccuracy of this statement as, although TRDC contributed to the cost, the main initiative was actually funded by Herts. County Council, a fact that we were unaware of at the time.

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