



Churt Parish Council Newsletter May 2020

Joined up Churt

During these uncertain and trying times, it never ceases to amaze me how the Churt village community has come together to offer and give support to each other.

We have a Covid-19 Community Support Group working in partnership with Grayshott and surrounding villages which now totals some 70 volunteers. Our co-ordinator is Jo Corfield and along with our Parish clerk, Dawn Barrow and Councillor Myra Johnson in particular, have worked tirelessly and relentlessly for over 6 weeks now. They must be exhausted. I am sure you will join me in offering my heartfelt thanks.

A local resident Sarah Bicknell whose Visors for Care Givers group totals 65 volunteers are making visors for local care homes and hospitals. 12,000 visors have already been made and £12,000 of a £20,000 target has been raised. The overall aim is to make 20,000 visors and materials have already been secured to bring the figure up to 16,000. An amazing performance. Well done and thank you to Sarah and your team.

We now have another village initiative running in partnership with Frensham Heights School for the making of hospital scrubs. Two Churt groups are involved, "Churt WI for Scrubs" and "Churt Scrubbers". Marion Mitchell, president of Churt WI and 15 of her ladies have so far made 10 pairs of trousers, 4 tops, 6 hats and 57 scrub bags. Lucy Petrie and her 10 volunteers of "Churt Scrubbers" have so far made 9 pairs of trousers, 6 tops, 44 hats and 24 bags. Well done, and thank you to Marion and Lucy and your ladies.

The village Spar shop and other local businesses have been providing huge support and I thank them all. We must all support each other and when the restrictions

are relaxed please, please continue to support our businesses. They will all need our help to recover to normality and get back on their feet.

We have just heard that Avalon Garden Centre has reopened with strict social distancing measures in place.

This is what we have called "Joined up Churt" and the efforts made by the Churt community have been recognised in the local media and by our MP, The Right Hon Jeremy Hunt. These outstanding efforts make us feel very proud to be part of our outstanding community.

Grants

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining two grants. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has awarded us a small amount to help with the extra cost of running the Churt Community Support Group. SSEN has been a good friend and supporter of Churt Parish Council and once again we offer them our thanks and gratitude.

We have also been successful in obtaining a Government Covid-19 Business Support Grant on behalf of Churt Recreation Ground Trust of which the Parish Council is trustee.

Churt Village Website - The hub of village activity. Please use it

Since the redesign of our village website, www.churt.org it has been evolving and refining, particularly over the past six weeks. This has been due in large part to the innovative and creative updates designed by Councillor Myra Johnson and in particular her stunning infographics highlighting Churt as "A week in the life of a Surrey Hills village." Our webmaster, Adrian Waller, has been speedily and efficiently updating the site with all relevant new information. All information in relation to Covid-19, the Parish Council and other village organisations is contained there. This is our major source of up to date information. There is also a full list of local traders providing telephone ordering. I urge all to check it on a daily basis.

VE Day 75

Until this lockdown, plans were being made for Churt to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day. This was the day that hostilities ceased in Europe on 8th

May 1945 and heralded the end of World War 2. The celebrations were cancelled some time ago. An exciting new idea has come about and we hope to organise a village rendition of "We'll Meet Again" to sing with the rest of the country shortly after the Queen's address to the nation at 9pm on Friday 8th May. The singing will be led by our very own Dame Vera Lynn, Debbie Lawson. Please come to your front doors immediately following the Queen's address and all will be revealed. If all goes according to plan you will hear Debbie take the lead.

Tree Inspection

Our contracted arboriculturist recently carried out an inspection of all the trees on the recreation ground and Redhearn Green. We are pleased that no major issues were found.

Scope Container

The SCOPE clothes recycling container by the pavilion is now full to overflowing. We have asked SCOPE to empty it, but in the meantime please do not deposit anything else there until it is emptied and particularly please do not leave items on the ground near it.

Footpath, Farnham Road

Since the storms in March, the footpath along Farnham Road between Lampard Lane and Star Hill has become treacherous with debris. We have asked Surrey County Council to clear the path and gullies and also to jet the storm drains.

Future Meetings

Recent legislation now allows us to hold virtual Parish Council Meetings. To that end we shall hold our next meeting by video on 20th May 2020 at 7.30pm. We shall hold it using the Cisco Webex video conferencing platform. Council meetings are open to the public and should anyone wish to join us, please contact Dawn Barrow our clerk, who will provide the necessary log in details. She can be contacted by email on churt_pc@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01428 714375 or 07766 190201.

The legislation also allows cancellation of the annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) and an annual general meeting of the council. These have both been cancelled

and the current Parish Council officers, therefore, will continue in office until May 2021.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will be held by virtual means on Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 7.30pm.