

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2022

You are cordially invited to a **Queen's Platinum Jubilee tea party** at the Parish Centre on Wednesday, 1 June from 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m. Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cake with us and toast our Queen's 70 years of service.

In addition, we have planted 2 oak trees to commemorate the occasion. We have also ordered a new flag pole to replace the one in Bussage Pleasure Ground. A thank you to the Renishaw Charities Trust for awarding us funding towards Jubilee celebrations.

We have 3 vacancies for Councillors to represent Bussage Ward. All you need is a keen interest in the Parish and a willingness to keep it the great place it is. Attendance at regular meetings and working groups is required. If you would like to join the 12 current councillors, please get in touch with the Clerk for further information or contact one of the Councillors to get a first-hand account of what is involved. Contact details below.

We are currently in discussions with the Barnwood Trust regarding funding for disabled accesses into France Lynch and Bussage Pleasure Grounds. The first thing we need to do is obtain an access audit.

Over the year we have been reconsidering our **grass cutting** to help protect wildlife and the environment. We have been in discussions with Stroud District Council about taking over the maintenance of some areas they usually cut, and we are investigating the possibility of taking ownership of 3 areas. It has been agreed that some areas can be cut less frequently and at a higher cut. Those areas where sight lines could be compromised will of course continue to be cut on a regular basis. There are areas that are contentious such as narrow paths. Some people ask us to cut the paths to make them more accessible for pedestrians and others want to leave them overgrown. We consider all resident requests carefully before deciding on the best way forward for all concerned.

The old **activity trail** in Bussage Pleasure Ground is to be dismantled and we are looking to replace it with a more challenging and interesting item of equipment for young children. Both the activity trail and the flag pole will be funded out of a Community Infrastructure Levy we received.

Play Rangers held an event on The Old Common in Bussage during the Easter break and at one time there were 86 children present! Various activities were carried out including arts and crafts, tight rope walking and ball games. It was lovely to see so many families making the most of the beautiful weather and having a picnic whilst their children played safely nearby. The Parish Council funds this event and were successful in obtaining a small grant from Stroud District Council towards the cost.

Public Rights of Way in Chalford Parish - There are 129 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in Chalford Parish, with a total length of just under 30km. All but three of them are footpaths; one is a bridleway, and two are restricted byways (we haven't any BOATs – byways open to all traffic). So what's the difference? In outline – nothing's ever simple - footpaths can be used by walkers, who can have pushchairs and dogs under close control with them; bridleways can be used by cyclists and horse riders as well as walkers; restricted byways also allow non-motorised vehicles such as horse-drawn carriages. Manual or powered wheelchairs (mobility scooters) can use any of the PRoW, but there is no requirement for them to be accessible (and neither do stiles etc have to be dog-friendly). And to finish, an almost totally useless piece of information: one of the 129 PRoW runs for 65m down the middle of The Ridgeway, just south of Tanglewood Way. Your Footpath Volunteers won't be working on that one!

Parking on the pavement is more than just an inconvenience. It can intimidate some people, particularly visually impaired pedestrians, making them anxious about leaving their homes, and potentially needing to step onto and walk along busy roads.

Pavement parking also wreaks havoc on walkway surfaces, which are not designed to bear the weight of vehicles. In addition, parking on verges is a regular complaint we receive. The damage to the grass/ground will eventually recover but in the interim, it encourages other vehicle users to park making recovery even longer.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting? - Full Council Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month. Due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations commencing on the 2 June, the next meeting will most probably be held on the first Thursday in July. Please contact the Clerk beforehand to find out where the meeting will be held and to let her know if you would like to attend, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time for your issue on the agenda. Our contact details are: Tel: 01453 887204. Email: info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. Web site: www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook