

## NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2020

Sadly, we say good bye to Karen Pitney and Daniel Endruweit who have both resigned as Parish Councillors due to other commitments. Which means .....

**councillor vacancies** have been created for **Hill and Bussage Wards**. Initially we have to give the electorate an opportunity to call an election and if no election is called we can proceed with co-option. If an election is called, a poll won't take place until 6 May 2021 as a result of Covid-19. A vacancy already exists in the Bussage Ward and as no election was called for that vacancy, co-option can proceed. If you are interested in this vacancy, please contact the Clerk for further details.

**The new play equipment in France Lynch Pleasure Ground** is proving to be popular. The slide/tunnel area is still fenced off at the time of writing as grass seed has been sown on the mound. It has been fenced off to prevent dogs from accessing the area. All play equipment can now be used and on a weekly basis (and at other times when our Groundsman has the time) we will sanitise all equipment. We recommend that hands are washed or sanitised prior to and after using the equipment. If the playground is too busy why not return later? We still need to Stay Alert to control the virus.

**Vehicle parking** – we have received several reports of vehicles being parked up for some considerable time, most probably due to people being on furlough. One area that is of particular concern is the High Street where parking is difficult at the best of times. The main concern is that emergency vehicles are unable to access this area easily if at all, so please can we ask you to park considerately. Thank you.

We continue to be **amazed at the willingness of volunteers** who have gone out of their way to assist our community and our shielded residents. So many of you approached us to help that we couldn't take up all the offers but we do appreciate your contact. And those that did react so quickly to requests to collect prescriptions, do shopping, walk dogs, mow grass (and more!) we again thank you. The community of Chalford is in your debt.

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – There have been a couple of incidents recently of which we are aware and resulted in the police getting involved. Teenagers, acting in an anti-social manner, smashed bottles and threw them into gardens. The individuals have been captured on CCTV and the Police are looking into this. If your son or daughter is out and about, please can you remind them that this type of behaviour is not acceptable.

**Frithwood** – The woods are there for everyone to enjoy. Unfortunately, some users of the wood are leaving a vast amount of litter, particularly by the bike trail. This doesn't pick itself up! If you know that you child/children use the woods, then please ask them to pick their litter up and bin it. We need to be especially careful at the moment as the virus can spread through litter and it isn't fair on those that have to pick up after others. Many thanks for your support with this.

And, it has been noticed that dog fouling is on the increase throughout the woods. Please can we ask dog walkers to use the bins provided. Once again, we thank you for your support with this.

**Play Rangers** – due to Covid-19, there will be no community play day in August. This will be a disappointment to many children (and parents!) as we know how popular they are. Play Gloucestershire are hoping to resume activities when restrictions are lifted which hopefully will be by October when the next play day is due to take place.

**Annual Accounts** – at our Full Council meeting in July (via Zoom), we considered the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020. All the accounts and reports were approved and our return will now be submitted to PKF Littlejohn, our External Auditors. The Accounts are available for anyone to view and copies can be obtained from the Parish Centre up until 30 August 2020.

**Fantastic Footpaths** - Chalford Parish is fortunate not only in its countryside, but also in its wonderful network of Public Rights of Way. In late spring last year eleven mostly easy walks around the Parish were posted on the Parish Website. They are as short as  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and go up to about 3 miles, so all can easily be walked in an afternoon. Many are on the flat and six are stile free. Maps and user-friendly route descriptions can be downloaded, and all have points of interest, whether views of the countryside, woods or flowers.

If you're looking for a new walk, why not investigate what's on offer. They can be found at the bottom of the Chalford Parish Council Footpath Group page of the Parish Website. <https://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/parish-council/footpaths-2/> Alternatively, we still have copies of the handy booklet "Eleven Short Walks Around Chalford Parish" available at £2 a copy. Contact the Parish Centre if you would like a copy.

**Council Meetings** – although we are not physically holding meetings, councillors are still communicating and making decisions on issues as a group. If you have any concerns, please email us and let us know and we will consider them and agree the way forward.

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