

## **NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021**

**PARISH CENTRE** – we are open again! To make your visit as safe as possible, all touching points at the Centre are disinfected on a frequent basis and there are hand sanitisers available for use. Once again, you are able to visit our book swap and we also have a number of jig saw puzzles available. 'Barry', the Freezer of Love, is restocked on a weekly basis with meals supplied by the Long Table. There is a variety of information available, both local and county wide.

**ELECTIONS** – nominations for the Parish Council elections closed in April. All three of our wards were uncontested meaning the candidates who were nominated are duly elected. They are:

Bussage Ward – Peter Oakley, Sharon Samaroo, David Taylor and Len Taylor.

Hill Ward – Steve Beioley, Stephen Lee, Paul Lilly, Alastair Pearson and David Wood.

Valley Ward – Mike Roberts.

This leaves 5 vacancies that will be advertised following the elections on 6 May. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more about the role of a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerks.

The Parish Centre will be used as a polling centre for County and District Elections so will be closed to the public on Thursday, 6 May.

**HRH PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH** – it was with great sadness that we learned of the death of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh. On behalf of Councillors and parishioners, Parish Councillor Samaroo attended a service on 11 April 2021. Cllr Samaroo wrote a tribute and led prayers at the beginning and after the Intercession and signed the Book of Condolence on our behalf.

**FRITH WOOD AND VALLEY COPSE ASHDIEBACK** – we must start with an apology. We, like many of you, were dismayed at the way the felling was carried out and at the aftermath. Needless to say, we have held meetings and conversations with the company who carried out the work. It is hoped that volunteers from ChalCAN's Biodiversity Action group will have tidied/cleared a lot of the wood left in Frith Wood by the time this newsletter is issued. We thank the volunteers for their help. The wood in the Valley Copse has been offered to Cotswold Canals Trust and again, this may have been cleared by the time the newsletter is published.

**DOG FOULING – Frithwood** - dog fouling, specifically pet owners permitting their dogs to foul and then not clearing up after them, is a constant battle. The latest concern around this subject is that of dog owners walking their pets in the wood and permitting their dogs to foul in the undergrowth and not clearing up. Dog fouling legislation applies to all land that is open to the air and to which the public have a right of access. And, we are now getting reports of dog owners depositing their filled bags in grit bins with the consequence that nearby householders are having to dispose of them. Bins are placed at frequent intervals so there is no excuse for this practice. Again, it will not be readers of the newsletter but if anyone witnesses a dog owner not picking up after their pet, please contact Josie Oak, SDC Dog Warden, on 01453 754490 or email her at [josie.Oak@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:josie.Oak@stroud.gov.uk). An owner can be fined up to £1,000.

**ALLOTMENTS** – inspections of all allotment plots are due to take place soon. We have a long waiting list; if you are not able to cultivate your allotment this year, please let us know so that we can give someone else the opportunity. Or, if you have a full plot and feel it is too much, then we can divide the plot. Please get in touch.

**GRASS CUTTING** – in addition to the land that the Parish owns, we also maintain a lot of the verges in the Parish on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. Stroud District Council also maintain some verges. Hence the reason why a verge on one side of the road can be cut and on the opposite side left uncut! It is because the various bodies cut at different times according to their schedules. There are two verges that Stroud District Council currently maintain where there could be a change in the cutting regime to increase biodiversity and we are currently discussing this

matter with them. We are also considering how the area behind Frithwood Surgery/Tesco Express could be managed differently to improve biodiversity. These considerations are being carried out in conjunction with ChalCAN.

**MIDDLE HILL ALLOTMENTS** – many of you will have noticed the trees that have been planted on an uncultivated part of this ground. The planting was carried out by ChalCAN's Biodiversity Action group. In years to come it will form a small wood and they are looking to give this area a name. Residents are invited to suggest a name, the closing date of which will be Friday, 14 May 2021. Further details can be obtained at the Parish Centre. Suggestions to be emailed to Penny at [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk) or you can phone the Parish Centre on 01453 887204.

**FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS ON UPPER HILL FARM** - Chalford Parishioners, and those living in France Lynch and Chalford Hill in particular, make good use of the Public Rights of Way (PROW) on Upper Hill Farm. However, over the years there have been difficulties for both walkers and the farmers, such as hard to use stiles, walkers wandering off PROW, and problems with dogs. Now, co-operation between the farmers, Chalford Parish Council, Chalford Parish Footpath Volunteers, Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Council PROW, and Cotswold Wardens is resulting in significant improvements. There are two main parts to the work. The first is replacing six stiles by five kissing gates and a self-closing gate, which will help the less agile enjoy the PROW. The second is improving signage. This involves extra waymark signs to make the PROW routes clearer; signs at the entrances to the farmland reminding dog owners to keep their dogs under close control; and extra signs asking owners to keep dogs on leads as the PROW pass through the farmyard. The work is being done by Chalford's Footpath Volunteers.

### **Why Not Join a Council Meeting?**

All our council meetings are open to the public and are currently held via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please let the Clerk know and an invitation will be sent to you. You can see the full schedule of forthcoming meetings on our website. We will be holding an Annual General Meeting in May but it will be later in the month due to the elections. Our next Full Council meeting will be in June.

Our contact details are: Tel: 01453 887204. Email: [info@chalford-glos.gov.uk](mailto:info@chalford-glos.gov.uk). Web site: [www.chalford-glos.gov.uk](http://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook