



# Charlton Marshall Parish Council

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## News - December 2016

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S WINDOW

This has been an extraordinary, unpredictable, few months, perhaps reflecting an underlying discontent with institutions. A starting point was Brexit. This has led to a challenge to the Prime Minister and an attack on the independence of the judiciary. Now a one time candidate with odds stacked at 150/1 against, is President-Elect Trump, with his 'Brexit plus, plus, plus'.

Changes are proposed to local government in Dorset which will affect us all and will doubtless not please everyone. We will know more from the consultative process by April. It is almost certain that far more importance is going to be heaped on Parish Councils, whose position and work must be respected. This prospect is both exciting and daunting.

Changes in Dorset health services are also inevitable in the near future. The NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group is consulting and planning to meet the increase in population at both ends of the age scale. There is an extensive awareness campaign which will culminate in a major public consultation in 2017. We all need to make our views known\*.

It is marvellous that in the 2016 Best Village Competition, Charlton Marshall and its Parish Council won the North Dorset District Council Special Award. Winners do not know until the announcement on the evening and I was caught unawares. I had gone to witness a wonderful celebration of

what local communities all over the county are achieving. Also, well done to our neighbours in Spetisbury, who were runners up in the Environmental Champions Award for their initiative in successfully nurturing some 33 varieties of wild flowers on the verge along the main road.

There have been improvements in our village – even pot holes have been filled, although negotiations continue about other Highways' issues. Thanks are due to Dorset County Council Rangers who provided the excellent new handrails leading to the Trailway from Park Hill. Several improvements were only possible because of the Solar Community Benefit Fund and Mr Gillies must be congratulated on his fine work in refurbishing the Lych Gate, and, hidden away in the Church Tower is now an electronic winder to spare the back-breaking efforts of volunteers.

The work is never done, but I must thank the other Councillors and our Clerk, supported by District Cllr Andrew Kerby, for their sterling efforts this year.

We all wish you 'A Very Happy Christmas and a Very Successful New Year.'

TIM HILL



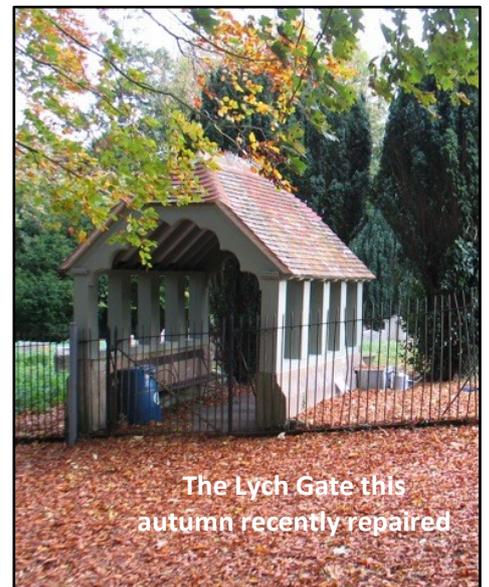
\*Contacting the Dorset CCG: Tel 01202 541946, [www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk/get-involved/](http://www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk/get-involved/), email [involve@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:involve@dorsetccg.nhs.uk), @twitter.com/@dorsetccg, facebook.com/NHSDorsetCCG.

### Community Benefit Fund (Solar Farm)

The next payment of £7,000 is due to be received by Charlton Marshall and applications are sought for ideas of how this money could be used to benefit the community. Last year the following payments were made:

- Contribution to help the Thursday afternoon Craft Club to purchase sewing machines and craft materials
- Multi-coloured Picnic Bench for playing field
- Steps at Charlton on the Hill to enable safer access to trailway
- Repairs to Lych Gate in cemetery
- Contribution to automate church clock winding mechanism
- Gazebos for outdoor village events

If you would like to apply for an allocation of this year's funds please contact the Clerk, Marie Dando. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.



The Lych Gate this autumn recently repaired

**Village Christmas Party** This is one of the great events of the year for all ages, but, sadly, it will not take place in 2016. Only very recently it was found that initial organisation had not begun and although attempts were made, there simply is not the time to plan a really worthwhile event. However, for 2017, put December 9<sup>th</sup> in your diaries. Moira Connolly will head the fantastic volunteers and Father Christmas has promised to be there.

**DANGER ON THE CLOSE** Worried residents in Charlton Mead have spotted children – some very young – zooming down Charlton Mead and going straight across The Close into Hopegood Close without stopping – the same happens from the other way as well.

The Close is very busy with all sorts of vehicles going up and down or turning off it. Visibility is not good. Dorset County Council Highways have been again to look at the site with the PC Chairman, but nothing will be done until Linden Homes complete their work in July.

The PC has been told it is not allowed to erect road signs warning of the presence of children and horses. Highways have no money left for official signs.

**So, please, mums and dads, have a quiet word with your children, explaining that the crossing is very dangerous.**

**CHARLTON MARSHALL – THE ‘BEST’ ONCE AGAIN** At the Dorset Best Village Competition presentation evening on September 27<sup>th</sup>, I was delighted and proud that Charlton Marshall Parish Council was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by North Dorset District Council ‘in recognition of achieving Best Village in North Dorset.’ The past few months have not been easy, but this might encourage some new volunteers to find out about becoming a Councillor. Well done, everyone!  
**TJH**



A surprise for our Chairman

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUES MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

This is an important meeting for all residents. The speakers are always top class and inform us on very relevant matters. Our District Councillor Andrew Kerby has agreed to tell us about his first year’s experiences and that could be quite amusing. Dorset Community Action will talk about the mind-boggling amount of work they do for us and Dr Karen Kirkham (Assistant Clinical Chair with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group) will talk about the consultation process and proposed changes – sounds boring? But see Chairman’s Window. After the half time refreshments, local groups will have a chance to tell us what they do. There is always the opportunity to ask questions. This is organised by the Parish Council as one of its duties, but it is not a Parish Council meeting.



The Parish Council has now equipped the cemetery with 2 composters for organic waste and a bin for non-organic waste in order to keep it tidy and presentable for the many visitors.

The finger posts at the bottom of The Close and by the Charlton Mead/Hopegood crossroads indicating the way to the dedicated car park, playing field and Trailway were 50% funded through a Dorset CC scheme set up by our County Councillor Hilary Cox. Their erection is a triumph of persistence!



Cheikh Diop and enthusiastic learners



One of the drummers

**FUN IN THE FIELD DAY SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>** Marvellous plans for a great day were frustrated by wet weather, which lasted longer than the forecast suggested. So much rain had fallen that all activities on the field had to be cancelled. However, the afternoon was saved by Cheikh Diop and his drummers, who beat their instruments and engaged those present from 2pm protected by the new gazebo. At 2.30 the sun came out and Spacey Tracy set about inflating the inflatables and it was decided to make everything free of charge for the youngsters who had turned up. Cheikh had a rest and returned just after 4 to teach the survivors how to play the drums. The day was saved by the arrival of 16 people from Devon, Surrey and France who were celebrating an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. They had found an equidistant point which was our village, and The Charlton Inn became their venue. They tried all of the equipment and then joined in the drumming and dancing for half an hour before returning to the pub and heading for Devon. They all wished their villages organised something like Fun in the Field Day. The great grandma was ecstatic! (There may be some photos on the village website by the time you read this).

**SEPT 16<sup>th</sup> 2017  
BOOK IT NOW**

**LAND ADJACENT TO ST MARY’S CHURCH** The site has just been submitted to North Dorset District Council following their recent “call for sites” and Savills are hopeful that they ‘will shortly be writing to a number locals – particularly those closest to the site – in order to establish the level of support we are likely to obtain for any subsequent planning application’.