

Charlton Marshall News – March 2015

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www.charltonmarshall.org.uk

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S WINDOW

Firstly, let me welcome Karen Rhys, our new Clerk, who was appointed at the start of the year. She has worked very hard to ensure a smooth transition. Pam Higgins has provided essential support, as well as rejoining the ranks of the Councillors. Welcome, too, to new Councillor Jem Saunders.

We have our Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday April 21st from 7.00pm. This is important for everyone and will be a bit more convivial with the offer of food and drink. It is not a Parish Council meeting, although we set it up! There are always expert speakers who tell us about important local matters. This year we have Bus2Go, the Environment Agency informing us about flooding, and the Air Ambulance. We are under pressure to come up with an Emergency Plan for the village which is accessed by all "blue light" services, hence the relevance of the last two. Local groups will also tell us what they have been up to.

By the time of the next Newsletter, there will have been a General Election and, perhaps, an election to become a parish councillor. A flyer is attached. The full complement for us is seven, but we have not reached that figure for three years. There must be people from across the parish who would like to give of their time. The same is true of finding a few volunteers willing to bring the Parish Plan up to date (see separate item).

Virtually every village in the country lost men during the First World War. Four weeks ago, guided by a member of the Western Front Association, eight of us, including six from Yorkshire, paid a memorable visit to many Commonwealth War Graves (CWG) in northern France, which are all somehow maintained in a pristine condition. We traced the length of the front as it was on July 1st 1916. Everyone had been given homework to try and locate some of those from our particular war memorials. Mark Churchill's book had provided valuable information as to when ours died. Further details were researched via the CWG website, and so we were able to pay homage to four of those from Charlton Marshall. Harry Bell, at the Railway Cuttings (Larchwood) Cemetery near Hill 60 and Bertie Martin, at Serre Road No 3 Cemetery, each had an individual gravestone. Frederick Harry Caines is recorded on the wall of Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery in Arras and Harry Courage is among thousands of names carved in the Portland stone of Thiepval Ridge Cemetery. A British Legion cross was left on behalf of the village for all four. Photographs of the sites have been forwarded to accompany Mark's documents wherever they are eventually deposited.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you a 'Happy Easter', with very special thanks to our band of volunteer Newsletter deliverers.

TJH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday April 25th 9.45 am. **Litter pick.** Please meet at Church Room for the BIG LITTER PICK to help prepare for the DORSET'S BEST VILLAGE competition. The more who come the less time it takes – one hour last year. All kit provided but bring a high vis jacket if you have one.

Sunday, July 5th from 11.30 am. **Rounders Day** – Raise a team and bring a picnic! Raffle.

Saturday, September 12th from 1.00 pm **Fields in Trust Fun Day** – another family extravaganza.

If you can help or want to participate in either or both please contact the Clerk on 07545 145776.

NEW CLERK

Karen Rhys was appointed Clerk to the Parish Council from 1st January 2015. Karen now lives in Okeford Fitzpaine with son Lucien and Buster the cocker spaniel, however, she knows Charlton Marshall well, having lived at Charlton House Court from 2006 – 2011. Karen said 'I have a strong interest in community affairs and look forward to becoming involved in village events. I am delighted to be chosen as your new Parish Clerk'.

NEW COUNCILLORS

We welcome Pam Higgins back as a Councillor after her lengthy stint as Clerk. Basically she has recycled herself, because she was a Councillor before mutating into the Clerk over seven years ago!

Jem Saunders has lived in the village for nearly six years and is keen to put something back into the community by sampling the role of Parish Councillor. He retired from the Immigration Service in 1999 after 38 years, 28 years as a Chief Immigration Officer. That involved implementing legislation governing border control and national security matters, which he still offers advice on. He has a special aptitude for languages. We need his mind!

There is still one vacancy needing to be filled as Marcel Schillig stood down in January after more than three years' service.

PARISH PLAN

Oh no! Oh yes!
We need a small group to spearhead a revision of the Parish Plan as quickly as possible. There will be money available from British Solar Renewables who are developing the Solar Farm at West End and we must have an agreed plan in place for its effective use.





ANOTHER IMPORTANT BIT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S WINDOW

The Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Annual Conference left me reeling with the amount of detail to be absorbed. There is a huge

amount going on in Dorset, involving the Clinical Commissioning Group (joined up thinking to improve medical services), the Local Economic Plan (millions of pounds into Dorset from the EEC to encourage industry, tourism, agriculture and education), the dynamic Police and Crime Commissioner (explaining how the already lowest funded force in Britain is to cope with more cuts but still be at the forefront of change) and the thoughts of the new Chairman of the National Association of Local Government addressing changes that the elections might bring about. To go with the last point was the introduction of a new national quality scheme for every council. We are all affected by what is going on, even though it is not blindingly obvious to the man in the street. TJH

VILLAGE CALENDARS

2015 calendar. Sales have covered production costs, but there is a large stock still to shift. The price is now reduced to £2 to clear them; the funds will go towards the QE II Jubilee Playing Field. Tim Hill will deliver any within the village if you leave a message on 451188. The photographs were all taken by local people and there is a quiz to enter with a prize of £25. Answer sheets to be in during the first week of 2016!

2016 calendar. A reminder – the deadline for the submission of images & artwork of aspects of the village for the 2016 calendar is 31st July 2015 to Council Chairman Tim Hill please.

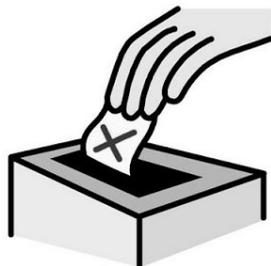
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Tuesday April 21st from 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

This is the Community's meeting. It is an important means of sharing information with those who are not online and this year we've included drinks and nibbles! Speakers confirmed include Bus2Go, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and The Environment Agency.

All Welcome! Please don't miss out on this.

PARISH ELECTIONS – VERY IMPORTANT

May 7th 2015 is not only the date of the General Election but also the local Parish Elections. Please see the attached leaflet detailing more information about being a Parish Councillor. Nomination papers are now available from the Clerk and have to be submitted by 4.00 pm on 9th April 2015.



The Parish Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30 pm, followed by the regular monthly Council Meeting. There will NOT be a meeting on Tuesday 5th May.

SPEEDWATCH

We need a few more volunteers – let Tim Hill know if you are interested.

www.charltonmarshall.org.uk

Have you ever looked at the village website? It is becoming an ever-increasing means of communication. If you don't have a computer you can look at it Tuesday to Thursday at the Online Centre in the Church Room. We do also provide information on the notice boards inside and outside the Church Room.

OUR PERENNIAL PROBLEM THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST

– dog mess not picked up or bags of it left on the path or hanging on branches. The village and trailway are well supplied with bins – sincere thanks to all the responsible dog-walkers who use them or carry their dog mess home. The others are committing an offence as well as creating a nuisance and a health hazard. Some of it may be people from outside the village and that is very annoying, but can all of us who do live in the village and who do walk dogs, please set the right example. Thank you in advance.



DORSET'S BEST VILLAGE COMPETITION

Following our successes in 2013 and 2014, the village is being entered once again for the Dorset's Best Village Competition. The closing date is 6th April with judging expected in May. A litter pick has been organised for 25th April, please help on the day if you are able to.

BLANDFORD POLICE STATION

Open to the public only on Wednesday & Saturday 1000-1600hrs. At all times you can contact the police by phoning 101 or if a crime is in progress, or life in danger, dial 999.

RECYCLING – an update from Dorset Waste Partnership

Metal caps from glass jars and bottles can now be left on. Plastic caps from plastic bottles can also left on. No loose caps of either sort acceptable and no plastic lids from glass jars or bottles. Got that? Oh, and please rinse food trays, bottles, jars etc.

If you need a list of collection dates you can either download one from www.dorsetforyou.com/dorsetwastepartnership or phone DWP on 01305 221040.

DORSET DRIVER GOLD from Dorset County Council

A two hour driving theory refresher session presented by a road safety professional at various locations. Aimed at drivers aged 75+ but anyone is welcome. Optional practical session in your own car. All places filled to end of March but keep an eye on www.dorsetforyou.com/roadsafety/gold

FORUM FOCUS

This is a free local magazine and a good way of keeping up to date with local information. Copies are available from the Church Room, Charlton Marshall, also Tesco, Homebase, Morrisons, Co-op, Library, Post Office, Leisure Centre, and other locations in Blandford.