



Chairman's Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to this first Parish Council newsletter of 2021. Although the start to the year is pretty dire, I am confident that it will steadily improve as the months go by and the vaccines take effect.

Even though this is still the Time of Covid the work of the Council goes on. You can see some of it in this newsletter and also on our website. We also communicate via Your Parish Matters. Details of how to receive YPM are on the reverse of this newsletter.

The Parish Council exists to work for the benefit of the residents of the Parish. Please contact one of the councillors or the clerk if you wish to discuss the work we do, or maybe should do.

At the beginning of the first lockdown last March the Parish Council established a volunteer network to help vulnerable people during the crisis and it is still here. If you need help or know someone who does please contact me on 721382 or np.cgparish@gmail.com. I also act as an *Advice First Aider" for the Citizens Advice Bureau, so contact me if you have any issues you need help or advice on, and I can send you in the right direction. Nigel Phillips

NATURE'S HIGHWAYS: ROADSIDE VERGES IN THE PARISH

We have an objective in our parish plan to foster an appreciation of the rural environment and our heritage, with activities that support wildlife, encourage play and exercise, investigate our history and improve public spaces. One of those activities in 2020, together with Shorwell Parish, was to survey the wildflowers in a number of roadside verges and encourage greater biodiversity by agreeing a new cutting schedule with Island Roads. You can find some of the surveys on our website.

Together with this newsletter you have received a leaflet that celebrates our Island verges and is packed full of interesting facts and advice on what you can do to bring back colour and insect life to these vital wildlife corridors. The leaflet is funded by the AONB. Its Lead Officer, Richard Grogan, said this:

"I would like to thank the parish councils and volunteers of Shorwell and Chillerton and Gatcombe for their efforts with Island Roads to take the guidance in our report and leaflet and turning it into practices 'on the ground'. The combination of actions and monitoring are a good example of best practice and I am sure the verges and the wildlife they support will reward us with the sights and sounds of nature in the spring."

This work will be continued in 2021 and we are looking for more people to take on a monthly survey of a new verge. Can you help? Please contact us if you'd like to join the team.



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH UNDER COVID

It was so sad not to be able to hold our usual Christmas lunch, with a well-practised team producing a three-course meal, serving it in the village hall and delivering to those unable to leave home.

Well, this time, no one was able to leave home! So we set up another catering team (of six) to produce homemade gifts and a card to be delivered to homes by the delivery team (of five).

The sloe gin, Christmas cake, chutney, marmalade, candle, beer, tree decoration, card and coconut ice were a big hit! But more important than the gifts themselves, there were lots of lovely socially distanced chats on the doorstep and appreciation from the 24 households. It has been a tough year for everyone, but particularly for those isolating at home and unable to see family and friends.

Action Plan and Budget for 2021/22

The action plan for 2021/22 has been agreed and the budget set to reflect the items outlined in the plan. The precept for 2021/22 will remain the same as this year at £10,500.

There are a couple of changes to note:-

Dog waste bag containers – these will no longer be refilled. A number of residents have asked for additional dog waste bins to be installed and it was felt the funds allocated to the bags could be better utilised in this way.

No6 Winter Sunday Service – for several years the Parish Council has worked in partnership with Chale and Niton and Whitwell PCs to provide a Sunday and bank holiday winter service for the No6 Bus. The charge to Chillerton and Gatcombe PC is approx. £2500 per year, and after examining the data, this equates to £37 per journey, which is clearly unsustainable. Options are being explored and £600 has been allocated to fund a reduced contribution to the Southern Vectis route or an alternative provision for those who need to travel on a Sunday.

The Action Plan and Budget are available on the website or please contact one of the Councillors if you would like more details.

Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree erected next to the Village Hall was a real community effort. Trevor Fordham very kindly paid for the tree and the CGCA provided additional decoration.

The Parish Council bought 44 clear baubles and Chillerton and Rookley Primary School painted and filled them with vigour! The baubles are now stored by the CGCA for use next year. Residents were also invited to hang their decorations and there was a gathering to sing carols, organised by the CGCA, which was very well attended.

If you would like the tree and a related celebration to continue as an annual event, please let us know and we will make next year even better!



The next census will take place on Sunday 21 March 2021.

- For the first time this will be a digital-first census, but paper will be available for those who need it.
- All households will receive an invitation to fill out the census questionnaire with a household access code and information to help them to take part online.

Please look out for the invitation pack that will arrive in the post and take part in this valuable headcount.

census
2021

Diamond Races

Although the Diamond Races, scheduled for October, will not directly affect the Parish, concern has been raised over the knock-on effects, such as parking and noise disturbance.

The Parish Council requested your comments through 'YPM' and were very grateful for the detailed responses received. The views were roughly split equally for and against, and these have been submitted to Isle of Wight Council Safety Advisory Group.



CGCA

The Isle of Wight Foundation (made up of the partners in Highways PFI company Island Roads) has announced its grant awards for 2020, and Chillerton & Gatcombe Community Association has been awarded £3,505.

The money will help the CGCA to upgrade the Village Hall as a community facility and hub.

The CGCA co-hosted with Archdeacon, Peter Leonard and Curate, Hannah Barraclough 'Carols Around the Tree'.

David Thorpe and Sham Payn played guitars, and around fifty people, braving the cold and threatening rain, romped through half a dozen Carols. There was even an appearance by Santa Claus!

At the end of 2020, everybody appreciated the opportunity to feel part of a community once more.

YOUR PARISH MATTERS!!

Sign up to receive YPM emails to keep in touch with everything that's going on in the parish!

Email: jill.webster@outlook.com

Your Parish Council

MAXINE WARR: (Clerk) 30, Fieldway Crescent, Northwood, Cowes. PO31 8AJ Tel: 609850
Email: clerk@chillertonandgatcombe.org

Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are held via video link during the lockdown.

Once restrictions are eased, hybrid meetings will resume at the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend; please contact the Clerk for the video link.

Tuesday 2nd March

Tuesday 6th April

Tuesday 4th May

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