

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk

May 2020

Our villages have never known a time quite like this and it is wonderful to see how well the community has pulled together. Those who can get out are fortunate to be able to exercise in such a beautiful place. It is great to see people out walking and cycling (at a safe distance). Given current restrictions, the magazine this month is digital only. Details of how to sign up for email updates about local matters from the Chilbolton and Wherwell Webmaster can be found on page 22. Unsurprisingly few events are planned, but we cover new initiatives such as the Chilbolton Coronavirus Support Group and the Grow Your Own Group. Plus, we have poetry and plenty of recognition for the vital contributions made by local people and key workers. Stay safe.

Andrew Keevil

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team – Jo Corner, Jeremy Buttery and Andrew Keevil and to our distribution coordinator, Andrew Flanagan. In a change to our usual approach, this is a digital only magazine. Distribution is via email to the webmaster distribution list and also on the village website www.chilboltonandwherwell.info.

We are a group of volunteers supporting our community. To help us please submit your copy to cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk **no later than the 10th of the month** for inclusion in the following month's magazine. It is important that your articles are submitted in MS Word using an A5 template and font Times New Roman size 11. For adverts for local events, please keep to half of an A5 page and please don't create any fancy formatting as this causes setting problems - MS Word text with clip art inside a border is fine.

If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Magazine Chairman, Stephen MacDonald, on 01264 860246 to arrange for your article to be typed by one of the team.

The editors reserve the right to omit, amend or condense any item submitted for publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily shared by the editors or the magazine team. Any article printed in this magazine may be reproduced on the Chilbolton or Wherwell websites. Contributors who do not wish their material to be published on the village websites must specify this at the time they submit their article.

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Church Matters
The Downs Benefice
The Reverend Jax Machin, Rector



The Rectory, Church Lane, Littleton, SO22 6QY
 email: revdjax@downsbenefice.org.uk

Benefice Administrators

Caroline McAulay
 ‘The Downs Benefice’ Office, The Rectory, Church Lane, Littleton,
 Winchester SO22 6QY

Tel: 01962 880845 email: office@downsbenefice.org.uk
 The Benefice Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

ST PETER AND HOLY CROSS, WHERWELL

Churchwarden	Pam Prince	4 Manor Cottages, Fullerton	01264 860 441 w.prince04@tiscali.co.uk
PCC Treasurer	Nigel Waters	Bramshill, Fullerton Road Wherwell, SP11 7JS	01264 861 326 nigel.waters@sky.com

ST MARY THE LESS, CHILBOLTON

Churchwarden	position vacant		
PCC Secretary	Wendy Fakes	wendyandrews875@btinternet.com	01264 860 237
PCC Treasurer	Michael Payne	michael@mjpayne.f9.co.uk	01264 860 296

Chilbolton Church Fete 2020

I am sure it will come as no surprise to anyone at the moment, that Chilbolton Village Fete has been cancelled this year.

I know Michael Payne will be writing to our kind sponsors as usual, in the hope that some money can be raised, but to all my helpers and stallholders – enjoy a year off, but be ready to come back with a vengeance next year for another wonderful village day.

Best wishes and keep safe.

Jennie Pope x

Dear Friends,

Something More Infectious!

As I write this article at 11pm on Maundy Thursday, 9th April 2020, we are at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic and ‘Lockdown’ shows no sign of abating. Our churches are closed to the traditions of our Eastertide worship and even to funerals; our workers are on furlough and it is illegal to venture out into the glorious sunshine other than to shop for essential foodstuffs or to undertake essential work. Thankfully, we have news tonight that our Prime Minister appears to be responding to treatment from COVID-19 and has just been moved from ICU back onto a regular ward. If I had written this even six months ago, you would have been justified in believing I might need a long overdue rest in a padded cell!

In the uncertainty of our earthly life, thank God for Jesus Christ who is the assurance of our eternal salvation! Below is a reflection on our Christian faith, given by the wonderfully pragmatic Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London on 15 March 2020 which I pray you will find as helpful as I have:

We come to church each Sunday, we pray and read our Bibles through the week, to prepare ourselves. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, travelled around Galilee to prepare himself for Jerusalem. In Jerusalem people discovered who he truly was, and what his words and actions really entailed. We’ve spent decades, many of us, preparing we knew not what for. Well, now we know. This is the moment when the world finds out whether being a Christian makes any difference or not.

In Britain, we say prayers for a sunny day, but take an umbrella! I’m not saying in the face of the virus we don’t take sensible steps. We must follow public health advice. We do so not because others are a danger to us, but because we might, directly or indirectly, be a danger to them. We’re a community defined not by fear but by trust, not by scarcity but by plenty, not by anxiety but by communion. It’s time to show our true colours.

This is the time to find ways to overcome isolation that don’t involve touch. We have this opportunity to explore the hinterland of the word with, that doesn’t always involve physical presence, but still means solidarity and kindness, generosity and love. We will limit our contact to protect the most vulnerable, but we still need to proclaim that there’s something more infectious than coronavirus – and that’s joy and peace, faithfulness and gentleness. It was in its most bewildered hour that Israel in exile found who God truly was. This is our chance

to discover what God being with us really means. None of us would for a moment have wished this crisis on anybody, let alone the whole world. But our faith teaches us that we only get to see resurrection through crucifixion; that we see God most clearly in our darkest hour.

Remember what Isaiah tells us: *'You shall cross the barren desert; but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety – though you do not know the way. If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you through it all. Be not afraid, says our God. I am with you like never before.'* This is our faith.

Yours in the hope of the risen Christ,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector of The Downs Benefice

A prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, Good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
Be with those who care for the sick,
And lift up those who are brought low;
That we may find comfort,
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love,
In Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

On Wordsworth's Anniversary

I gazed – and gazed – but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Sue Larcombe

Church Services Planned

These Will Take Place if the Churches are Reopened and Services Resumed

May 2020	<i>St Mary the Less, Chilbolton</i>	<i>St Mary's, Crawley</i>	<i>St Catherine's Littleton</i>	<i>St Stephen's Sparsholt</i>	<i>St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell</i>
Sunday 3rd May – The Fourth Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion (BCP)				8am	
Family Communion	10am				
Morning Prayer					10am
Café Church in Church Room			4pm		
Spring Meditations – Maximillian Kolbe					6pm
Wednesday 6th May					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Saturday 9th May					
Messy Church at Crawley		4-6pm			
Sunday 10th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter					
Family Service	10am				
Morning Worship		10am			
Family Communion			10am		
Welcome Worship				10am	
Benefice Evensong					6pm
Sunday 17th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion (BCP)		8am			
Morning Prayer	10am				
Morning Worship			10am		
Matins				10am	
Family and Pet Service					10am
Peace & Wholeness			6pm		
Wednesday 20th May					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Thursday 21st May – ASCENSION DAY					
Ascension Day Service followed by breakfast in the Church Room			7.30am		
Sunday 24th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion (BCP)					8am
4 th Sunday Worship with Sunday School		10am			
Family Communion			10am		
Evensong	6pm				
Wednesday 27th May					
Meditation			7pm		
Sunday 31st May - PENTECOST					
5 th Sunday Benefice Communion		10am			

Chilbolton Coronavirus Support Group Update 14th April

Having set up a dedicated email address and delivered forms to the whole Parish, we are pleased to report that there has been a huge response and we now have some 99 volunteers and some 68 registrations from those in need of help.

Each person needing help has been assigned an individual volunteer who has made contact and are now actively providing any assistance needed. So far, most help is needed with collecting prescriptions from the Chilbolton Stores and delivering them to the house. Some help with shopping either via the ordering system Nicky Bond has now put in place, for delivery on 3 days each week, or in some cases volunteers are shopping for those they are helping when they do their own shop.

We have asked all volunteers to report to the core Support Group once each week or if something further is needed. This is working well.

A few villagers are now being contacted as part of the NHS critical list group and this has prompted a few more households to register for help in case of need in the future.

Nicky and team are doing an amazing job keeping the orders for shopping going and she now is able to contact the assigned volunteer to collect and deliver an order.

Unfortunately, the Abbots Mitre can no longer provide a takeaway service, but the Clos du Marquis are now supplying frozen ready meals to Nicky at the Chilbolton Stores.

There was a hiccup with some supermarket deliveries for the elderly and vulnerable category but these for the most part seem now to have settled down again.

A Parish Council grant application for Community Emergency Fund monies was successful and £500 grant money has been received by the Parish Council for use by the Coronavirus Support Group.

Fiona, Jo, Anna and Geoff

Registration instructions and form on next page...

You can still Register in one of the following ways:

1. Send a short email to chilboltoncoronahelp@gmail.com with your name, age, address, telephone numbers landline and mobile. Please indicate whether you need support or are a volunteer.
2. Telephone either Fiona Barrie on 01264 860264 or Jo McMenemy on 07919 280 702 or Anna and Geoff Cockram on 01264 860333
3. Complete the following Response Form and then you can:
 - Deliver it to Fiona Barrie at 1 Chestnut Corner, Station Road, Chilbolton SO20 6AW
 - Deliver it to Jo McMenemy at Abbots Rest, Village Street, Chilbolton SO20 6BE
 - Deliver it to Anna Cockram at Coles Croft, Coley Lane, Chilbolton SO20 6AZ
 - Put it in the box at the Chilbolton Stores

CHILBOLTON CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE FORM

First Name	Surname
House number/name	Street
Post Code	Email
Telephone	Mobile
Please tick whichever applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would like to register to receive help• I would like to volunteer	

For people who are unable to get to the local shop please contact Chilbolton Stores using the following email address : chilboltonstores@gmail.com or call Nicky Bond on 01264 860231

NOTE: Any personal information will only be used by the Chilbolton Coronavirus Support Group for help with COVID 19.

CHANGE
OF DATE

QUIZ ?

FRI 11TH NIGHT

SEPT

FUNDRAISER

7-11pm

Get a team together and join us for a fun night raising money for 3 volunteering projects in Africa

£8 per head includes a hot supper

Raffle and silent auction

(prize donations gratefully received)

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Teams up to 8



To enter or for more info contact:

Verity - verityelizabethway@gmail.com

Richard & Emma Way - 01264 860649

Jo & David Neudegg - 01264 860042

Tickets available to purchase
at Chilbolton Village Shop

“This Summer I will be travelling to Africa to volunteer on 3 valuable projects. I'll be teaching English in Ghana, volunteering in a hospital & community clinic in Tanzania and aiding a large-scale wildlife conservation program in South Africa.

The entire 6 weeks costs over £4500 and since completing my A levels I have been working to fund the trip. I have saved the majority (£3250) but am hosting a quiz night, to help reach my final target. ”



- Verity

Wherwell Parish Council

Dear Villagers

We took the decision as a Parish Council to suspend non-essential meetings until it is deemed safe by our government to ease restrictions. We decided not to resort to virtual meetings as this would limit the number of parishioners able to view them as some do not use the necessary technology.

That said, adversity brings out the best in us all as Wherwell Parish Community Volunteers proves. Spearheaded by Councillor Susanne Hasselmann who has worked tirelessly building a network of volunteers to help the most vulnerable, be it by collecting and delivering shopping and prescriptions, walking dogs or just checking people are OK by phone.

We have also obtained a £500 grant from TVBC to aid the Wherwell Parish Council COVID-19 relief effort. We will use this grant to provide essential protection for our volunteers and support those vulnerable members of our community enduring hardship. If you think you might be eligible, please contact our helpline in confidence on [01264 860060](tel:01264860060).

We should give a special mention to Nicky and her team at Chilbolton stores for preparing the shopping so efficiently and one of our newest residents Amy Kinnear who has been baking cakes to cheer up those who cannot go out.

Keep safe and well.

*Sean Hutton
Chair Wherwell Parish Council*

Walking in the Countryside

As we enjoy the glorious weather and take our daily exercise, more and more of us can be found lifting our spirits walking in the surrounding woodland and farmland.

We are fortunate to have many miles of footpaths, bridleways and some permissive paths within the parish and yet frequently walkers can be found straying from these and walking along the strips of land left for nature by the farmers. Not only is this not good for wildlife but this trespass also strains the goodwill of our farmers who have an increasingly important job to do in feeding the nation.

It's also important to remember that permissive paths are not public rights of way and may be withdrawn at any time should the landowner feel they are causing them problems.

Let's all continue to enjoy our daily walks and respect the landowners by staying on the permitted routes.

Sean Hutton

Chilbolton Parish Council

When I last wrote an article for the Parish Magazine (January 2020) Coronavirus did not exist. At least we had never heard of it. Now our lives are dominated by it. So, the last meeting of CPC, which took place on 6th April 2020, had to be a “virtual” meeting. Until a couple of weeks ago I had never heard of Zoom. Thanks to Zoom, and our clerk Mandy’s efforts, our “meeting” was reasonably successful. No members of the public “attended” but, I want to emphasise, you can still “attend” and ask questions, but you have to tell Mandy in advance. She will then send you an invitation by email. You then download Zoom app and accept the invitation and you will be virtually present. I think you will be surprised at how well it works. Now to the main points: we have lost one councillor. Ian Brain has reluctantly decided, due to other pressing commitments, he can no longer continue and has resigned. I thank him for his contribution. CPC have established the Chilbolton Coronavirus Support Group (CCSG). There was an impressive response to a request for volunteers: about 100 persons put their hands up. About 65 persons have registered as in need of assistance. The main task is making food deliveries using the village shop as the supplier. My thanks to Nicky Bond who is working very hard to support the Group and to Fiona Barrie, Jo McMenemy, Geoff and Anna Cockram who are the main organisers. They are doing a great job. To more mundane matters: as you may remember, CPC are in the process of registering our ownership of various parcels of land that we own; for example, the Common and the War Memorial Playing Field. We wanted to register the allotments, but we could not find any evidence of our ownership. Helen Bradley has now found this and so we will seek to register our title at the Land Registry. New “way markers” have been attached to posts to make the course of the Test Way as you emerge from Coronation Tree Green more obvious. The two telephone boxes which now serve as book stalls are looking a bit tatty. Andy Bond has kindly agreed to spruce up the one on Grindstone Green. We are getting quotes for doing up the one in Branksome Avenue. It has just occurred to me that with the boredom of lockdown, someone might welcome the job of rubbing down and painting this telephone box. If so, please get in touch. CPC will pay for materials. The mention of Branksome Avenue brings to mind the new bus shelter. The feedback I have had has been very positive. I am just sorry it took us so long. Not so long ago the main concern of people living in the lower part of the village was excessive rainfall and overloaded sewers. Thankfully, with some prolonged dry weather ground water levels have dropped. Thanks also to the dry weather, the excessively muddy footpaths and flooded paths on the Common have now dried out. One of the bonuses of the lockdown and the fine weather is how many locals are making use of the network of footpaths in our parish. Seeing them so well used and enjoyed

makes the work of the Open Spaces Committee in keeping them clear worthwhile. Another bonus is that, so far, the excessive crowds using the Common in fine weather during school holidays have not materialised. We will be keeping an eye on this and, if necessary, we will close off the area where cars are parked. We would only do this reluctantly and as a last resort. We are hoping to graze cattle on the Common as usual and we will be making contact with Adam Coutts who has provided the cattle in recent years. Grazing is very important to the management of the Common which as you know is an SSSI. Will this be affected by Coronavirus restrictions? I hope not. May I remind everyone that cycling and horse riding are only permitted on the Common along the bridleway that runs between the two bridges. There has been a recent upsurge of persons cycling over the rest of the Common. If you see this, could you have a quiet word? We are about to place posts at strategic points to make the restriction clear to those who may not be aware of it. CPC and COSC are considering what changes need to be made to the parking area to ensure persons living in the Common can have unrestricted vehicular access to their properties at peak times. This is a very difficult matter to which there is no easy solution. We are considering various options. We had hoped to consult the village about this matter at the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th April. Unfortunately, this has had to be postponed to a later date due to the virus. I am sorry we have had to close off the play equipment on the War Memorial Playing Field. I know you will understand this was necessary. The grass is currently being cut by volunteers due to the unavailability of our normal contractors. CPC are still willing to allow football (once restrictions are lifted) should a team wish to use it. So far there has been no interest. We will continue to advertise it. Our contractor has finished repairing the fence along the top side of the enclosed area on West Down. Hopefully it is now cattle proof once more. I have been asked to mention bonfires. Some of us with large gardens need a bonfire from time to time. They are not of themselves illegal. I have been asked to stress that with the threat of Coronavirus more persons may suffer from breathing difficulties and these could be aggravated by bonfire smoke. Could you be extra considerate at this difficult time? I hope that by the time I write to you again we will be over the worst. Meanwhile, keep well.

David Griffiths- Chairman

SADS continues despite the virus

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (SADS) curtain calls are now being done virtually. Performances are recorded and published on YouTube. For more information go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/stockbridgedramasociety/members/virtual-curtain-call>

Mark Frank

Chilbolton Parish Council Meetings

Chilbolton Parish Council have postponed the Chilbolton Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Meeting due to the new regulations that these meetings cannot be held virtually. Therefore, the May CPC meeting will be a normal monthly parish council meeting. All meetings for the foreseeable future (CPC, Planning Committee and Open Spaces meetings) will be as scheduled but held via Zoom. Members of the public are still welcome to join; they just need to let me (the CPC Clerk) know by 12:00 on the day of the meeting so that a meeting invitation can be sent to them.

Mandy Denyer



For all homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;

Telephone: 0345 260 1501 or

Email: sylvia.cp@outlook.com

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit andover.cats.org.uk

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we are currently closed so are unable to accept cats into care or rehome any of the cats we have in with us. This also means we are unable to fundraise. We know this is a difficult time for many but we would appreciate any donations, either from our Amazon wishlist or left at our collection points in Pets at Home or Pets Corner.

This is Sid, he came into our care as a stray and we have been unable to trace his owner. The vets estimate him to be between 3 and 5 years old. He is very friendly, sometimes over friendly and has been known to nip on occasions, because of this we feel he is not suitable to live with young children. He is looking for an experienced cat owner who can spend time with him. Holly is still waiting for her forever home too.



Chilbolton Pre-School – Learning Through Play

Our theme of ‘People Who Help Us’ has continued this month and we have continued to enjoy learning all about the ways that lots of different people help each of us every day.



As always, we have loved our role play area and using our imaginations to pretend, as we rummaged through our dressing up trolley. We had fun dressing up princesses, knights, postman, nurses, superheroes, teachers and builders. Imaginative play promotes confidence – which is such an important building block for a child’s development.

Yipeeeee...fantastic news – our fabulous Forest School reopened and we have all been making the most of this amazing learning space. We all know how very lucky we are to be able to play in our natural environment and we say a big ‘thank you’ to our Forest School Teacher, Babs for helping us all to make the most of it. We love looking at bugs with our magnifying glasses – making yummy grass soup in our mud kitchen – making our very own birds nest with twigs and leaves.....using our listening ears to hear the birds and the wind in the trees.....the learning list is endless.

Every day, our colourful art corner offers lots of interesting and unusual crafts for the children to try. Our towers are full of pens, pencils, crayons, stickers, tissue paper, paint stampers, stencils – everything anyone could possibly want to explore their creative side. There is never a ‘wrong way’ to create – the children can experiment with colours, textures and make some amazing pictures, structures and junk models.

Dancing Claire continued to visit us at the beginning of the month, and we had great fun moving our bodies and exercising to the music. From pretending to be animals stomping around – to pretending to pick flowers for our lovely mummies – some great physical development as we stretched and used lots of different muscles.

Following Government guidelines, we temporarily closed the doors to our fabulous Pre-School on Friday 20th March – but our amazing team have been keeping in touch with the children by uploading videos, photos, activities and even a daily bedtime story.

On behalf of us all at Pre-School - please stay safe and look after each other.

Clarey Gibson, Deputy Manager, Chilbolton Preschool

Three Cheers for Chilbolton Stores

I have been asked to put finger to keyboard to say a word of thanks.

In these difficult times, where would we be without Nicky Bond and all her helpers, working tirelessly to keep the whole village stocked up with all the essentials of life. Despite massive problems with suppliers (never mind the loo paper) they have kept us all topped up with our basic needs – even depleting Nicky’s kitchen at times to help out.

So thank you all VERY VERY MUCH for putting yourselves on the line for us. We are all very grateful and I raise my glass (of shop wine) to you all. Best wishes.

Jennie Pope

May in the Garden

I have compiled a few notes of things you may find helpful to do in your garden this month. I realise everyone has different ways of gardening and that everyone enjoys their garden in their own special way. Gardens are very individual spaces but in these uncertain times can be a place of relaxation, exercise and natural beauty which we share with a variety of wildlife. As I write this the garden is extremely dry and so if we have not had substantial rain, water seedlings and any plants that need it. Rhubarb should be watered to extend cropping season, even if it is raining! The weeds will all be growing strongly now so there is a lot of work to keep the borders tidy. If you grow dahlias these can be planted outside but beware of slugs and late frost. Spring bedding can be cleared and summer bedding hardened off to be planted outside for a summer show of flowers. However, we can have frost as late as the end of May so keep the fleece handy. A few sheets of newspaper put over the top of tender plants in the evening works as a frost protector too but remember to take it off before any breeze gets up. In the kitchen garden it is a busy time sowing Runner beans, French beans, Courgettes, Sweet corn and all the range of salad crops. Potatoes need earthing up. If you can, try growing some Runner or climbing French beans up a fence, the flowers can be attractive and of course your reward is lots of fresh beans. I would also suggest growing Lettuce, Kale and herbs in your borders to give you some fresh veg. from your own plot. Enjoy and happy gardening.

Jenny Seddon

Full Circle World

Good morning dear world,
So briefly known,
In flashes only see,
So often missed
By eyes so self-obsessed.
Good morning dear earth,
With your clouds like flags unfurled
And your sun that walks on beams of frost
And lights all we thought lost.
Good morning dear mist,
Dear floating lakes of light through which
The numbed bee and its cargo sails.
Good morning dear sky,
Dear scented woven threads of air
That blow away despair
From this world so briefly known,
In flashes only seen,
So often missed
By eyes so self-obsessed.
Good morning dear world

Brian Patten

The Stolen Orange

When I went out I stole an orange
I kept it in my pocket
It felt like a warm planet
Everywhere I went smelt of oranges
Whenever I got into an awkward situation
I'd take the orange out and smell it
And immediately on even dead branches I saw
The lovely and fierce orange blossom
That smells so much of joy
When I went out I stole an orange
It was a safeguard against imagining
there was nothing bright or special in the world.



Brian Patten

Chilbolton War Memorial Playing Field

As you will be aware, all the play equipment had to be taped-off on 24 March in line with Government instructions. We appreciate that this has been respected and note that the open grass area has proved to be even more popular than ever.

Volunteers using their own equipment have undertaken the first cut of the year. This revealed a disappointingly large number of sticks strewn across the whole area which can only have been deliberately propelled there. Their potential for damage to the volunteer's equipment considerably extended the time taken to cut the grass and its recurrence threatens further cutting.

Development Group progress

Since our last update each of the supported and suggested improvements to the facilities has been carefully analysed based on their survey popularity plus a range of practical considerations. We need to consider the initial and ongoing project management and costs; space requirements; and impact upon the existing ambience of the area.

There are 12 items under consideration including additional benches; wildflower areas; additional play equipment; trim trail; activity wall; and a tennis court. The latter was well supported but our research confirms that to succeed it would need to be the focal point of a club, or be organiser-led. If you have an interest in organising tennis in Chilbolton or know someone who does, we would be delighted to know about it via the Parish Clerk at Chilbolton.Clerk@hotmail.co.uk

We hope to make our recommendations to the Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee in mid-May before tackling the all-important funding of the chosen projects. You will be kept updated.

Dog Control

The increased use of the field for exercise during this lockdown period has, extremely disappointingly, led to additional failures to adhere to the requirement to keep dogs on a lead at all times inside the field perimeter. Used poo bags are also being abandoned across the grass area.

TVBC are currently reviewing their dog control enforcement regulations and penalties. It seems inevitable that they will allow the Parish Council to introduce restrictions on access to the field with dogs if the minority of owners let themselves, and the responsible owners, down by failing to exercise proper control.

All responsible dog owners benefitting from use of the field can, please, act as role models by keeping their dogs on a lead and using and disposing of poo bags properly. We thank you for your assistance with this difficult issue.

*CWMPF DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Trish Heaton, Nick Horne, Amy Smith*



Recipe of the month

Smoked Haddock with Cream



For 2

350g smoked haddock
Butter
175ml double cream
Freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons fresh breadcrumbs

Poach the haddock for 5 minutes in a little water. Drain and remove skin and any bones and flake the fish. Place fish in a buttered ovenproof dish, pour over the cream, season with black pepper and scatter breadcrumbs over the top. Bake at 200C/400F for about 20 minutes until bubbling.

Add herbs if you wish and serve with, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, green vegetables, anything you fancy!

Note from editor:

Please send in your recipes to cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk. If not published in the same month as submitted, they will appear in later issues 😊

Grow Your Own Group



During these extraordinary times we have set up a group to share fruit, vegetable and flower seeds and seedlings. Anyone is welcome to join; first time vegetable growers to experienced gardeners, basically anyone with an interest in growing their own.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Gwen Picco
Email: gwen@gpicco.com. Phone: 01264 860214.

Gwen Picco

Coronavirus and Bonfires

TVBC have updated their guidelines relating to garden bonfires

"We all now know that the coronavirus is a respiratory disease. During the coronavirus pandemic, more people than normal are at home, working, caring for their family and/or self-isolating. Your neighbour may be suffering breathing difficulties due to the virus. People with underlying health conditions have been strongly advised to self-isolate in their homes for 12 weeks. They need to go into their gardens for fresh air and they need to be able to open their windows for ventilation; they have nowhere else to go. Breathing could be worsened due to bonfire smoke inhalation and put a further burden on the NHS.

Therefore, during these difficult times, we would particularly ask all residents to cooperate in protecting everyone's health by not lighting bonfires during the Government's lockdown period."

You can read the whole article on the TVBC website:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-and-garden-bonfires-store-not-burn>

Heather Cusack

Senior Environmental Health Officer, TVBC

Easter Lilies in Wherwell Church

Sadly Covid 19 prevented us from having our usual display of Lilies in the Church this Easter.

However, before we went into lockdown £155 was collected. Thank you to everyone who donated and especially to Phyllis Harding who also collected the majority of money, which has been passed on to the Church 'flower' fund.

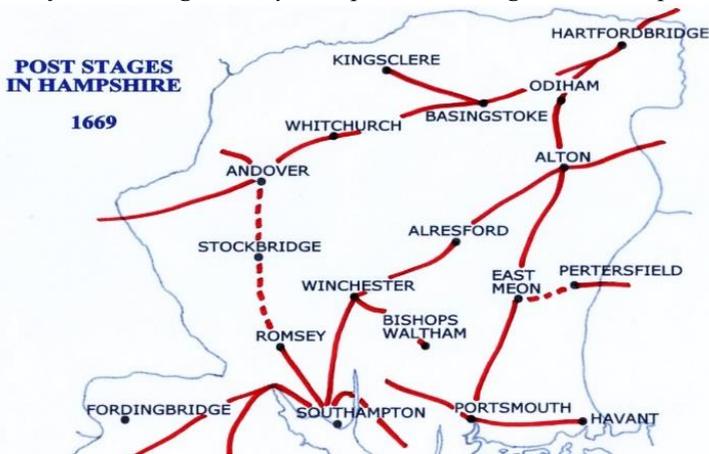
Having replaced the containers on the top of the Church flower pedestals recently, the bases have now had some TLC & been powder coated to match. This has only been possible due to the generous donations over the years. Thank you.



Jo Baughen

Early Postal History in and Around the Test Valley

This article was first published in April 2014 and it is reproduced here in recognition of the sterling work by our 'posties' during the current pandemic.



Circa 1506, the Western postal route from London to Cornwall was established. In 1579, the only post stages in Hampshire were Andover, Whitchurch, Basingstoke and Hartfordbridge. By 1593, post stages to London from Southampton and Portsmouth had been established. The postmasters, Andover (John Smith) and Basingstoke (John Hopkins), were paid 20d (approx 8 pence) per day. Alas, in 1626 John Tarrant, postmaster at Andover, petitioned the King for not having received his pay for six years! Circa 1650, a letter from Andover to London cost 2d, one quarter of a labourer's daily wage, rising to 8d in 1812, almost half the daily wage!

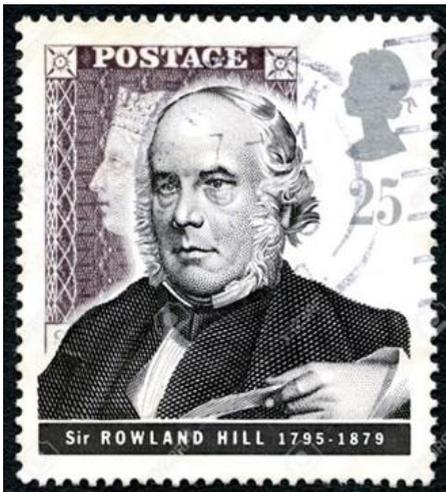
Delivering the mail was sometimes hazardous. In 1782 the Andover mail boy was robbed by two men armed with a pistol and a bill hook. In 1804 the Poole mail coach overturned at Winchester, causing 'great injury to passengers and horses,' and in 1836 during the 'Great Snowstorm', the Quicksilver Royal Mail coach (see footnote) became stuck in snow near Andover. There were lighter moments however, such as when Moses Pepper, postmaster at Romsey, threw his laundry bag onto the passing London mail coach instead of the letter bag.

The Post Boys were based at their post office, which was often an inn, and these were spaced 15 to 20 miles apart, which seems to be the maximum distance a horse can be ridden without working it to death! The Post Boys could be quite old and carried letters from their home office to the next one on the post road, and returned with any letters going their way. On the road, they were obliged to blow their bugle every 1/3rd mile, when they passed any individual and when they entered a village or town. Most importantly, the bugle was to be blown at the door of any house receiving a letter. To ensure

that mail actually arrived, the letter charge was paid by the recipient. Postal charges were high, and some people considered receiving a letter and being able to pay the charge, was a mark of social standing. In the Post Office archives there are complaints from the public that the Post Boy did not blow his bugle at their door, meaning that neighbours did not realise that the complainant had received a letter.

The first General Post Office (GPO) was established in London in 1657, and served the five main post roads from Dover, Falmouth (West Road), Milford Haven (Bath Road), Holyhead, and Berwick (North Road). Initially all mail went via the London Office. Thus, a letter from Andover to Marlborough would travel to London on the West Road and from London on the Bath Road. When cross postal routes were developed (see 1669 map above) the mileage a letter travelled was reduced substantially.

Letters, written on folded sheets of paper, were charged both on the number of sheets of paper and a sliding scale of distance travelled. In 1805, a single-sheet letter travelling up to 14 miles would attract the lowest charge of 4d, rising to 7d for 50 - 79 miles and 8d for 80 - 120 miles, and so on. For each extra sheet the charge would be doubled, trebled, quadrupled, etc. Mileage rates changed as roads were improved. Andover to London was 68 miles in 1787 but only 66 by 1802. Conversely, Southampton changed from 79 to 80 miles, which incurred a higher charge; the post office was moved a mile nearer to London (Above Bar) so that the cheaper rate would again apply to mail going to London.



At the GPO every letter was inspected to make sure that the correct charge had been written on its front, so that the Post Boy would know how much money to collect. A room called the candling room was set aside for this purpose. The letter was held up to a candle light so that the postal clerk could see more effectively any additional sheets hidden within the letter. This task was unpleasant because clerks worked in semi-darkness in a closed room, which was made stuffy and airless by all the burning candles.

By 1815, postal charges had risen so much that some poorer people were forced to pawn belongings in order to pay for a letter. Even the well-heeled found the charges high, and they devised many ingenious ways of evading the postage. Sir Rowland Hill KCB FRS (1795-1875), an English teacher,

inventor and social reformer proposed radical reform of the GPO, including scrapping the old charging system and replacing it with a single charge of 1d for each letter within the UK, regardless of the distance it travelled.

His proposals for the new Post Office attracted great public support, but the Government was not so sure. Eventually, on 5th December 1839 reforms were implemented, but with a standard 4d charge. A massive public outcry forced the Government to back down, and the universal 1d rate was introduced on 10th January 1840.

The French started using envelopes in the early 18th century, but in Britain an envelope counted as an extra sheet of paper, which substantially increased the postal charge. The new universal letter rate brought envelopes into common use.

This article is based upon a talk given to Wherwell History Group, in November 2013, by Roger Harris.

Andrew Flanagan

Footnote:

By the late 1820's the coaches had reached the height of their development. The Royal Mail coaches were built by the coachbuilder 'Vidler' who had workshops at Millbank.



They were never owned by the Post Office. Instead Vidler's built, maintained and then leased the coaches back to the Post Office. Every evening the Royal Mail coaches left London from the Old Post Office at St Martins-Le-Grand and this event was watched by large crowds.

By the 1820's Royal Mail coaches had established themselves as the 'Kings of the Road'. Upon their return to London each coach was taken back to Vidler's workshops and any necessary repairs were carried out in order to ensure that the coaches were kept in pristine condition.

All Royal Mail coach routes were numbered, with the exception of one; number '209', the 'Quicksilver'. The Quicksilver ran from London to Falmouth and it became the fastest ever Royal Mail coach, covering the ground at an average speed of just over 10mph.

Communicating in a Crisis

Chilbolton and Wherwell - Webmaster Email Database

Over **400** individuals across our two villages have signed up to receive email updates about local issues from the **Chilbolton and Wherwell Webmaster** (Andrew Flanagan). This has operated successfully for over two years and includes items of interest about local activities, neighbourhood watch, etc. If you would like to join the database, email your name and email address and village to:

chilboltonandwherwell@gmail.com



To All Magazine Contributors

We are eternally grateful for the regular contributions provided by villagers for the magazine each month. However, we would be even more grateful if the submissions were all provided in the A5 Template format.

If you are a contributor and already doing this – thank you! If not, please ask the magazine Content Manager to email you the template next month before you copy and paste your submission into it. Many thanks.

Stephen MacDonald, Mag Chairman

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Brownies	Julie Shone	01962 761269
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(Admin)	Sally Griffiths	860313
Chilbolton Players	Ford Bacon	07788 470188
Chilbolton Church Flowers	Jane Brown	860726
Chilbolton Coffee Morning	Sheila Laughton	860460
Chilbolton Neighbourhood Watch	Denise Hall	860543
Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee	David Griffiths (Chair)	860313
Flood Advisory Group	Terry Gilmour	860507
Horticultural Society	Sheila Evans	860697
Joyrides Community Bus	Mary Dunne	860398
	John Musters	810459
Midday Mums	Joyce Payne	860296
Pre-School	Sam Inglis	07732 095814
Short Mat Bowls	Deb & Richard Richardson	861082
Village Hall (Chilbolton) - Booking Only	Kate Ballard	860524
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Village Hall (Chilbolton) - All other matters	Tony Ewer	860486
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Village Website	www.chilboltonandwherwell.info	
Wherwell Church Flowers	Jo Baughen	860319
Wherwell Cricket Club	Nigel Horne (Chair)	07876 122927
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Wherwell History Group	Andrew Flanagan	860560
Wherwell Home Guard Club	Sandie Bastable (Chair)	363499
Wherwell Ladies Night	Angela Hughes	860877
Wherwell Playing Fields	Sean Hutton (Chair)	860443
Wherwell Primary School (Secretary)	Patsy Pritchard	860384
Wherwell Primary School (Chair of Governors)	Sean Hutton	860443
Wherwell Neighbourhood Watch	Michael Payne	860296
Wherwell Singers (www.wherwellsingers.org)	Dale Webb	860074
White Lion Folk Club	Roly Clarke	07919 120159
Women's Institute	Pat Lloyd	01264 353635
Yoga	Pam Flanagan	860560
Test Villages U3A (www.testvillagesu3a.org.uk)	Geoff Thompson	01264 782771