

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk

March 2024

It's starting to feel like spring again! With Easter just around the corner, there's lots to look forward to again this month, including film showings, coffee mornings, and talks. I hope you all have a lovely March.

Mia Cousins

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team Diane Newell, Sue Larcombe and Mia Cousins. Thanks also, to our distribution coordinators Jenny Parkinson and Lindsay Nightingale, and our distribution helpers. Also, to Tim Whiteside, our 'What's On' Coordinator, and Stephen MacDonald our chairman and advertising manager.



Church Matters

The Downs Benefice is currently awaiting a new Rector.

However, our services and Church Life continue as normal. If you have any

requests, needs or queries, please contact the Benefice Office (details below).



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

Church Flowers – March

Wherwell: 30th March

EASTER GARDEN & LILIES

From the Church Records – January 2024

Service	Date	Name (s)
Chilbolton		
Thanksgiving Service	30/1/24	Chris Appleby
Wherwell		
Interment of Ashes	9/2/24	Janet Jukes

Church Services March 2024

Services March 2024	<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>
<i>This information is correct at the time of going to press but please check on the website (www.downsbenefice.org) for up-to-date information.</i>					
Sunday 3rd March – The Third Sunday of Lent					
Holy Communion		10am			
Morning Prayer	10am				
Café Church in Church Room			4pm		
Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday					
Mothering Sunday Service	10am	10am	10am	10am	10am
Sunday 17th March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)					
Holy Communion (BCP)				8am	
Holy Communion	10am				
Morning Worship		10am			
Tuesday 19th March					
Licensing Service for Revd Kevin Rogers				7.30pm	
Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday					
Holy Communion (BCP)					8am
Palm Sunday Service with a Donkey Procession			10am	10am	
Monday 25th March					
St Catherine's Toddler Group Easter Service			10am		
Wednesday 27th March					
Midweek Holy Communion			10am		
Thursday 28th March					
Holy Communion and Maundy Thursday Supper	6.30pm				
Holy Communion				6pm	
Friday 29th March – GOOD FRIDAY					
Easter Garden		10am			
Good Friday Meditations	<i>With Wherwell</i>		12 Noon		3pm
Sunday 31st March – EASTER SUNDAY					
Easter Sunday Holy Communion	10am		10am	10am	10am
Easter Sunday Family Service		10am			

From the Benefice Office

Dear Friends,

March is a month of new beginnings. The official start of Spring is in March. It's a new beginning for the natural world as birds return to our gardens, bulbs that have laid dormant over winter spring up from the ground and buds on trees unfold. It's an exciting time for nature and for us as we watch this new life appearing.

This March is a new beginning for all of us who live in the Downs Benefice and for our churches as we welcome Revd Kevin Rogers as our new Rector. Kevin is married to Lorna and they will be living in the Rectory in Littleton. His service of licensing will take place at Sparsholt church on 19th March.

Easter falls early this year, on 31st March. At the beginning of February, whilst I was out shopping, I was greeted by displays of Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, cards, and an Easter tree with light-up eggs dangling from its branches. All these things are signs of new life. But in the commercialisation of this season there was one thing missing. Jesus, who is the light of the world, the reason for Easter, was nowhere to be seen or found.

We are now in the season of Lent, traditionally a time of penitence and fasting in preparation for Easter as we follow the story of Jesus to the cross, as he's betrayed by one of his disciples, denied by his closest friend, and abandoned by his other friends. What a tragic end to a life filled with love. But Easter Sunday brings hope and a new beginning as we celebrate his resurrection from the dead and new life. Jesus is alive! The message of Easter tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. His perfect and undying love could not be killed on a cross or held in a grave. Jesus is alive today and he offers each one of us his love and new life in him, and that is something to celebrate!

You are all very welcome to our services on Easter Sunday to celebrate the mystery and wonder of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

The ministry team send our prayers and blessings for Easter,

Charlotte Nash, LLM



Wherwell & Chilbolton History Facebook Group



Chilbolton Sunday School Outing 1964

As we emerge from the celebration of Christmas and the ensuing cold winter months of January and February our thoughts turn to spring and summer. Perhaps that is why a recent post on the History Facebook site prompted such a good response. The picture above is from a Chilbolton Sunday School outing to Hayling Island in August 1964 and thanks go to Janet Limond (nee Avis) for making the post. It got a great response reaching 379 people and added new information into the WHG archives. It also goes to show the interest many of us have in understanding and relating to our history. These details are now preserved in the archive for future access.

The Group now has 378 members and continues to grow. We have plans to publish new stories and insights from our village's history over the coming months and anticipate reaching over 400 members quire soon.

Do you recognize anyone in this photo? To see if you are correct, or more generally explore our Facebook site please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/962211084892488>

or search Facebook for "Wherwell & Chilbolton History". If you join our Group, you can search for friends or members whom you may know?

If you can tell us more about **Chilbolton Sunday School**, please email us at: wherwellhistory@gmail.com. Thank you.

Ernie Wilkins, Wherwell History Group

EASTER LILIES IN WHERWELL CHURCH

We are delighted that we will, once again, be purchasing some lilies with which to decorate our lovely Church at Easter. Anyone wishing to make a contribution should contact Phyllis Harding who has kindly offered to collect the donations. Please pass the names of any loved ones that you wish remember at this time to either Phyllis or Jo. A card containing the names of the loved ones will be placed in the Church.



This year, we would like to donate any surplus money from the purchase of the Lilies to the Andover Food Bank.

With many thanks, Jo Baughen

Wherwell Coffee Morning



Saturday 2nd March, 10:30 - 12noon

at Wherwell Village Hall, Church Street

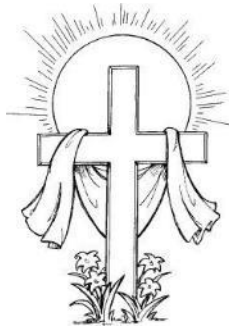
- Coffee, Tea and Biscuits
- Free Raffle Entry with Admission

All for £1.50 per person * Everyone Welcome**

EASTER SUNDAY

**at St Mary-the-Less, CHILBOLTON
and St Peter and Holy Cross WHERWELL**

Sunday 31st March at 10am



**Come and celebrate Jesus is Risen!
All Welcome!**

**ST MARY THE LESS CHILBOLTON
EASTER FESTIVAL**

We will be decorating the church for Easter on

FRIDAY 29th MARCH FROM 2PM

**DONATIONS FOR LILLIES IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES CAN
BE FORWARDED TO JANE BROWN OR ANY PCC MEMBER**

The EASTER SERVICE is at 10am on SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

Rain, Tankers, Ground Water, Rivers, andOverpumping.

Rain? The UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology has reported 2023 the wettest July-December period since records began in 1890. Ground water levels were reaching their highest ever recorded levels locally, reported the government's Environment Agency (EA) who are responsible for monitoring both groundwater and river levels. All the stores for water are full, river, surface and groundwater stores, no trees, no evaporation and still it rains! So, water everywhere, including underground.

Ground water? This is water from rain that is soaked up by the rocks and the ground like a sponge. Underground it travels to the rivers and then flows away. Since 2013 the Chilbolton Flood Advisory Group (FAG, see below) has been recording ground water levels monthly at a local dip for the Environment Agency. We saw the highest ground water levels ever in December 2023. When these underground stores are full, there is nowhere for the water to go, so it appears at the surface, through floors, along the roads, into holes in the sewage pipes underground filling them up so the sewage pumping plant (designed primarily to handle solid waste) can't cope.

Rivers? In January 2024 every river in the area was so full they were overtopping their banks and despite a dry spell, the river levels just didn't fall as the ground water continued to feed them.

And in Chilbolton.....?

Tankers? Southern Water (SW) used three tankers an hour in December and January to pump ground water surpluses away from SW's main sewage pumping station. SW paid for them to ensure sewage did not back up into people's homes through the drains or pour out onto the street and into people's gardens. The tankering lowered the ground water levels near the main Chilbolton Sewage Pumping station significantly and averted the threat there. Many local villages are the same. But tankers are 24/7, noisy, disruptive and expensive in manpower and energy. The alternative?

Overpumping. A bland term for discharging the water that is flooding the sewage pumping station into the River Test. It is piped through filtration tanks and regularly changed filter bags into the Abbotts stream and under the Sleeper bridge on the Common.

(Continued)

This is very strictly controlled by the EA. A long-term Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) has to be produced by SW, and agreed by the EA. This was done by SW in 2018 and has been regularly reviewed. Overpumping cannot happen until the ground water in specified EA boreholes reaches a certain level. This level was triggered in October 2023. Despite permission, SW then delayed overpumping and continuing tankering. As ground water levels slowly fell SW announced that overpumping would not be needed and the pumps etc were removed; tankering continues.

The decision to overpump is not the Chilbolton Parish Council's or FAG's, it is solely in the hands of SW and the EA. We liaise but have to accept their assurance that minimal pollution will occur. Natural England, who oversee the Common SSSI, are also aware.

The Flood Advisory Group (FAG) was set up in 2002 to advise Chilbolton Parish Council on water issues and to ensure that they are well informed and that the village is as resilient as practically possible to both ground water and river floods. We bring in key personnel to advise. Brilliant members have been out digging out ditches, clearing drains, rodding our culverts, nagging the County to clear their culverts, liaising effectively with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and with local people at risk and, since 2013, monitoring ground water levels with monthly dips. Major decisions though, like overpumping, are regulated by Government Agencies and the water companies. Details of Chilbolton's Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) and water treatment equipment (General appendix A) can be found at:

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/our-plans/infiltration-reduction-plan>

Save the Date

EXHIBITION of LOCAL HISTORY

Saturday 6th April 10.30 – 12noon

Wherwell Village Hall

Presented by Wherwell History Group

Come along to browse Photos, Videos, Maps & more...

Refreshments served by the Coffee Morning Team

Admission £1.50

WHERWELL HOME GUARD CLUB

A letter from the President

In 2014, when the Home Guard Club reopened, I was proud to have been elected Chairman. At the time I said that I would stand for five years, if the membership wanted me to. Enormous thanks go to all of the villagers and others, who rallied round to keep the Club open by becoming members.

In order to ensure that the Club stayed in the hands of those members of five years continuous standing, we re-wrote the constitution and set the annual membership fee at £15.00. There were also small fees for welcomed guests to enjoy the bar and any events, such as bingo evenings, the Sunday quiz, game shows, gin nights, televised sporting events on the big screen or hiring the hall for a family get-together.

The Club bar is always well stocked with a wide variety of bottled beers and spirits, as well as tea and coffee. The staffing of the bar and the committee has been completely voluntary and my sincere thanks go all those volunteers who have willingly donated their time. Without them we would not have a Club.

Unlike some villages, Wherwell is very lucky to have a sports pavilion, village hall and a pub. Our Home Guard Club aims to compliment these other facilities and we are proud to serve the community by offering a place to meet others at a time when it seems that people can easily become isolated and lonely.

The membership subscriptions, and the income from the bar, have enabled us to improve the building and maintain its interior. Recently we have installed a kitchen and repaired soffits, fascias and gutters. At the AGM in 2023 it was decided to increase the annual membership fee to £20.00. At just 39p per week this is enormously good value.

For those who rarely come to the Club we encourage you to drop in at any time. We are open four nights a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) with a monthly Sunday Quiz. Why not come and give us a try?

On my retirement as Chairman I was asked to become the Club President. This is a great honour that I have been proud to accept. Sandie Bastable has taken over as Chairperson and is doing a wonderful job.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for their support for the Club, it's Chairman and it's Committee. I especially want to thank those who have served on the Committee since the relaunch and those who have been members for much longer.

Cliff Goodall,
President, Wherwell Home Guard Club

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J M Wilson & W E H Baillie is an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). And an introducer to NFU Mutual Select Investments Limited, a member of the NFU Mutual group of companies.

Wherwell Parish Council

Report from the meeting held on 9th Jan 2024

The Parish Council met in the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall, one member of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the November meeting were agreed & signed.

Matters arising included:

1. using the Playing Fields Pavilion as an emergency hub now the emergency generator is in situ and wired, and
2. Cllrs Young and Newell taking on responsibility for developing better communications with local residents, including updating the PC website, and developing a new residents communications pack,

Finances were presented by the Responsible Finance Officer. The PC signed a cheque due and discussed the ongoing problems in setting up an online bank account. After discussing the cost pressure faced by the PC (particularly a £1,000+ increase in insurance costs) Cllrs agreed to increase the precept for 2024/25 by £1,000 to £10,500. This would represent an increase of less than £4.00 per band D equivalent household. The PC then discussed and approved S137 grants to be awarded from the 24/25 budget.

Various **Assets of Community Value** were registered with TVBC in November 2018. These all lapsed after 5 years in November 2023. The PC were concerned about the White Lion being put up for sale by Punch Taverns as soon as the listing had lapsed, it was recognized that a listing as an Asset of Community Value would have some worth in helping to maintain community assets within the village. It was therefore agreed that applications should be renewed to TVBC for The White Lion, the church, and the Home Guards Club.

Regarding planning

1. The PC were informed of planning applications that have been approved by TVBC including a greenhouse and garden barn at Freelands, and various tree works
2. They noted the applications pending decision by TVBC that are approved by the PC - for Installation of a ground mounted solar array at Abbey Oak and a single storey rear extension at The Coach House, Fullerton Road

(Continued)

3. They noted that the application for a solar farm has been delayed pending request for further information from the applicant, particularly in respect of landscaping and views. Cllrs discussed and agreed not to pay for legal advice concerning a potential contract for a community benefit fund, but would have informal discussions with a local lawyer.

Reporting on **Special projects and Cllrs portfolios:**

There were no further reports on special projects, and District Cllr Drew was unable to attend to present his usual briefing on TVBC and HCC matters.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday 12th March at the new regular time of 6:30 pm, to which local residents are welcome to attend and bring any comments or concerns.

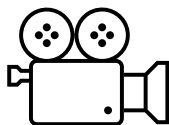
Sean Hutton,
Chair

Chilbolton Village Hall
Every Tuesday 2.00pm - 4.00pm
£2.00 per session.



**New Members welcomed – come and
try your hand at this**

Come to the Movies!



CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

'One Life' (12A)

**Starring Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter, Lena Olin,
Johnny Flynn, Romola Garai and Jonathan Pryce**

**The true story of humanitarian Nicholas Winton
who helped hundreds of children escape from German-occupied
Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II**

On

Friday, 1st March, 2024

Doors open 6.30 pm

Film commences 7.30 pm

Tickets £6.00 - In advance

Or £7.00 - On the door (subject to availability)

Tea/coffee and biscuits

Wine, beer, orange juice and choc ices
will be on sale

To book your ticket, please ring

Beryl Lawrence on 01264 860618

or E-mail dlaw@davidlawrenceassociates.co.uk

Stockbridge Practice News – February 2024



Just a reminder that you can view test results on the NHS App. Routine GP appointments, physiotherapy assessments, blood tests and smear tests can be booked online.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

You may have seen in the news that there have been increasing cases of measles. We would like to encourage any children or young people who have not received two MMR vaccinations to book in for these. It is particularly recommended if you are planning to become pregnant or to go away to school, college, or university. Pregnant women should not have the vaccine.

Healthier Together

We know many patients regularly look after grandchildren. If you are concerned about their health, we would recommend accessing the Healthier Together website or App. Please search 'Healthier Together' to find helpful information on how to manage conditions at home and when to seek medical help.

Patient Participation Group

We would like to say thank you to Gwen Picco who has recently stood down as the Chair of our Patient Participation Group. We are keen to encourage new members of the group. We meet four times a year on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening. If you cannot commit to meeting but would be willing to be contacted by members of the group regarding feedback about the surgery, please email us on hiowich-hsi.stockbridgesurgery@nhs.net

Wednesday 28 February

All GP surgeries locally are closed for the afternoon for training. Patients should call 111 if they have an urgent medical need.

Wherwell History Group – Winter Season



March 15th, 2024 at 8.00pm
A History of Women Police
by Clifford Williams
at Wherwell Village Hall, SP11 7JJ

This talk will examine the origins of women policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, starting with the suffrage movements and World War One, before looking at the changes and developments across the counties leading up to the appointment of the first women Chief Constable in 2016.



April 19th, 2024 at 8.00pm

Capture the Castles
The Story of Castles through the Eyes of Artists
by Tim Craven
at Wherwell Village Hall, SP11 7JJ

History Group events are free to members.

Guests are welcome (£5 per event)

To make a booking, enquire about membership or download our programme for 2024, please visit our new website at www.wherwellhistory.com

Don't forget - it's the



*Coffee Morning
at Chilbolton Village Hall.*

*A Cup of Cheer and a biscuit...
Bring family & friends to support your Village Hall
all for £1.50 each on*

*Saturday 23rd March
10.30 to 12.00a.m.*

Including 100 Club Draw, Raffle, & Secondhand Books

DIARY DATES

Warm Hub Lunch	Every Monday	12 noon
Monday Movers	Every Monday	1.45pm
Wherwell Fit Step	Every Monday	6 .00 – 7.00pm
Bingo WHG Club	Every Monday	7.30pm
Wherwell Keep Fit Class	Every Tuesday	9.15 – 10.00am
Short Mat Bowls CVH	Every Tuesday	2.00 – 4pm
West Down working party	Every Tuesday	2.00 – 4pm
Chilbolton Badminton CVH	Every Wednesday	7.30pm
Qi Gong Class at WVH	Every Thursday	10.00am

MARCH

1 Movie Night ‘One Life’	CVH	Doors Open 6.30pm
2 Wherwell Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 – 12noon
<i>6 deadline for ad hoc adverts</i>		
7 U3A	CVH	Doors Open 1.40pm
<i>10 deadline for copy</i>		
15 Stockbridge Cinema	STH	7.30pm
15 Wherwell History Group	WVH	8.00pm
17 ‘Reflections’	WC	6.00pm
19 Garden Club	CVH	7.45pm
20 Stockbridge Cinema	STH	5.00 & 7.30pm
23 Chilbolton Coffee Morning	CVH	10.30 – 12noon
24 Jumble Sale	CVH	2.00pm
24 Simons Quiz	WHGC	7.30 for 8pm
26 Referendum Meeting	CVH	7.00pm
29 Easter flowers	St Mary the Less	2.00pm
30 Easter Raffle	WHGC	8.45pm

APRIL

6 Exhibition of Wherwell History	WVH	10.30 – 12 noon
11 U3A	CVH	Doors Open 1.40pm
14 ‘Reflections’	WC	6.00pm

Save the Date

May 19 ‘Reflections’	WC	6.00pm
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WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – March

Sat 2 nd 01264 368000	Indoor Market - Shop with a range of local independent businesses in the Chantry Centre. Taking place on the first Saturday of the month, the market is located in the central area of the shopping mall.
Fri 8 th 01962 840440	Stand up Comedy - Geoff Norcott is known for his unique brand of provocative stand-up. He will be trying to make sense of the current cultural and political scene with his playfully provocative brand of humor - Theatre Royal in Winchester 7:30pm
Sun 10 th 01264 368000	Second Sundays - Featuring the best local talent, you can look forward to shopping with artisan traders, artists, vintage sellers, food producers and enjoying street food, craft drinks, music and free creative workshops for all ages.
Mon 11 th 01962 840440	Rhod Gilbert & The Giant Grapefruit - Get ready for a side-splitting comedy extravaganza as the acclaimed comedian Rhod Gilbert is performing at the Theatre Royal in Winchester 7:30pm
Sat 16 th 01264 368368	FROM GOLD TO RIO – THE GREATEST HITS OF SPANDAU BALLET & DURAN DURAN - Two of the UK's most iconic bands will be brought to life in one power packed show! If you're a Duranie, a Spandie, a Wild Boy or a Soul Boy, then this is something you don't want to miss! – Andover Lights 7:30pm
Sat 16 th 023 8055 5366	Mercury (The Ultimate Queen Tribute) is performing at the Brook in Southampton - Including performances of the most popular Queen hits, such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'Radio Ga Ga', 'We Are the Champions', 'We Will Rock You', and many more.
Sat 23 rd 01794 523054	Simon & Garfunkel - Through the Years - 7:30pm at The Plaza Theatre, Romsey. Critically-acclaimed as one of the greatest tribute shows in the world, standing ovations and selling out theatres.
Sat 23/24 th 01962 840440	The Gruffalo's Child - Let your imagination run wild with songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone aged 3 to 103. Warm, witty, and beautifully made.. a fantastic family favourite (Theatre Royal Winch)
Wed 27 th 01264 368368	The Big Chris Barber Band - Comprising of 9 of Britains finest Jazz musicians, The Chris Barber band are continuing Chris's musical legacy (Chris sadly passed away in 2021, aged 90), performing a selection of classic Barber repertoire. Lights 7:30pm
Farmers' Markets	
Romsey - First Sunday of every month 10am - 3pm	
Winchester - Second and last Sunday of every month 9am -2pm	
Andover - Third Sunday of every month (March to December)	
Plus... Andover Market for All Seasons – every Friday 8:30am - 1pm	

Chilbolton Parish Council

We all have a busy month ahead of us and all residents are requested to respond to the **3 surveys** delivered with this magazine by the **26th March** so that we can incorporate the results with the parish council responses. There will also be a public meeting. Please return the housing needs survey to TV in the envelope provided and the others to the drop off box in the shop as indicated.

Threatened Pumping into the River Test

Everyone was very concerned about the excessive flow of water and effluent and the need for 24-hour removal by tankers. Southern Water could have legally started pumping directly into the river through filters when aquifer levels rose to the highest level recorded in October in terms of an agreement with the Environment Agency. Aquifer levels are now receding.

The Parish Council objected strongly at the contemplated discharge onto our SSSI Common and the unique River Test.

Regular contact with Southern Water by our Flood Advisory Committee avoided any pumping but when Southern Water delivered a large pump unit and pipes onto Grindstone Green the objections were also taken up by river keepers, owners of fishing rights and politicians with extensive media coverage.

This led to a statement by Southern Water:

“We are not, and will not be, using the pipes set up to pump into the Test. At the moment tankers are taking excess flows away for normal treatment. This plan would only have been implemented in extremis as an absolute last resort to prevent flooding within homes, schools and businesses because groundwater levels are exceptionally high and overloading the system.

We have no current plans to initiate this, but we were testing our preparedness. It was last used during floods about three years ago and would operate for as short a period as possible.

Releasing highly diluted waste water into a watercourse like this is something we do everything in our power to avoid -- but the alternative might have meant homes suffering internal flooding.”

1. Housing Need Survey

Parishioners are asked to complete a new housing need survey to update the housing need before moving ahead with the planned build of 10 affordable and 10 downsize homes. We need to be sure that the needs have not changed and that the homes are still needed.

(Continued)

This survey will be independently analysed by Test Valley Borough Council who will issue a report.

2. Reg. 18 Consultation on draft 2040 Local Plan

The first full draft of the Local Plan 2040 (Reg 18, Stage 2) is out for public consultation with a closing date of 2nd April.

The papers are available on the Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) website. The Local Plan will set out the TVBC proposals for housing, settlement boundaries and planning policy in the borough and the parish council will be making a formal response to matters that concern us. Any resident can respond directly.

3. Referendum on removal of part of Test Valley Farm (TVF) from the settlement boundary.

The proposed settlement boundary methodology in the TVBC 2040 Draft Local plan includes removal from settlement boundaries of non-developed land that has a closer functional relationship with the adjoining countryside including open space, recreation grounds, allotments, school playing fields and farm complexes.

The TVF land included in the settlement boundary is heavily wooded and partly a grazing field with a derelict building. It is separated from houses on the Southern part of Chilbolton by a public footpath and mature woodland only accessible by a narrow farm lane that follows an indirect route and is isolated from village facilities. It bears no relationship to Chilbolton village and certainly could not be said to relate to the built form of the settlement.

TVF most certainly does relate better to the countryside and it is part of an earlier farm complex. There is overwhelming objection by parishioners to development on TVF and so far development has been refused on this land although a planning application for 4 houses awaits decision.

The referendum is to provide evidence of public support to request the removal of TVF from the settlement boundary.

Please complete these questionnaires and referendum because a large response provides necessary evidence to support the Parish response and prioritises projects should funding become available.

Closing date is 27th March.

(Continued)

Public Meeting.

A public meeting will take place on **Tuesday 26th March at 7:00 p.m.** in the Village Hall to present and discuss the proposed Parish Council response to Local Plan 2040 Reg.18 Consultation and to hear the views of parishioners before the response is sent to Test Valley Borough Council. The closing date for the response is 2nd April - just after the Easter weekend so time will be short.

We hope that as many residents as possible will attend.

Tony Ewer.

Chairman Chilbolton Parish Council

. March 2024.

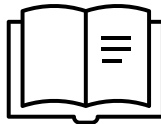
Great Lives

Wherwell Church is delighted to bring you another series of reflections on the lives of great historical characters and subjects who have made a difference to the world. This Spring, we will look at Hilda of Whitby and Joan of Arc, along with an evening devoted to the consideration of Angels. Do come along and be inspired. The Reflections will be held at 6 pm in the church, lasting for around thirty to forty-five minutes of readings and music; all to be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to chat.

17 March 2024 Hilda of Whitby, Benedictine Abbess. 614-680 AD

14 April 2024 Joan of Arc, Patron Saint of France. Died 1431 AD

19 May 2024 Angels



Simon's Sunday Quiz

24th March 2024

7.30 for 8.00pm ~ ~ ~ Admission £2.50



Cash Prizes

Teams of up to 6

Light Buffet included

Tables **MUST** be reserved **IN ADVANCE**
-- phone Jo (07515 384 915)

Janet's Bingo – everyone welcome

every Monday & Saturday 9th March

8pm start – doors open from 7.30pm

Saturday 30th March at 8.45pm



GRAND Easter Chocolate Raffle

at **Wherwell Home Guard Club**

The Old Hill, Wherwell, SP11 7JB, 01264 860 314

Newly decorated Meeting Room & Kitchen available for hire.
Seats 60, Licensed Bar optional. Enquires to Sue on 07557 051 041.

FEED THE ANDOVER FOOD BANK UPDATE

For nearly four years, some residents of Wherwell and Chilbolton have generously supported the Food Bank. Sadly now, more than ever, the cost of living is continuing to increase alarmingly, which is resulting in even more families and individuals being referred to the Food Bank for help.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE

Tea, coffee, long-life milk, sugar
Baby food, wipes, nappies
Cereals, jam, honey, peanut butter,
Meat and fish paste
Fruit juice and squash, biscuits, crisps
Rice, tinned vegetables, instant mash, meat and fish
Pasta sauces
Tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding, jelly, instant whip
Bathroom, kitchen and toilet cleaning products
Washing-up liquid dish cloths, scourers, bin bags
Detergent, fabric conditioner
Hand sanitiser, soap, shower gel, spray deodorants, toilet rolls
Tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner
Cat and dog food, poop bags

Donations can be dropped off at Chilbolton Stores or at either of the monthly village coffee mornings.

Please do contact me if you need any donations picked up or if you would like to make a cash donation.

Information regarding setting up a standing order to benefit the Food Bank or to Gift Aid a donation, can be found on their web site at:

Helping Local People in Helping Local People in Crisis
(andover.foodbank.org.uk)

**Jane Andrews: Tel: 860635 or 07730 412393
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White Knight rescues White Lion

2023 was a strange year for Wherwell's beloved, if not particularly well frequented pub. After ten years of relative torpor, in which trade dwindled, especially after successive lockdowns, the pub's enforced closure in late 2022 heralded an uncertain future, with the permanent loss of a 400-year-old institution a distinct possibility. Then along came Jane and Rachel, with their welcome enthusiasm and plans to negotiate a lease with Punch Taverns, the freeholder. All of a sudden, we wondered if a new era beckoned. The village responded eagerly to the new landladies' menu ideas and regular quiz and theme nights. It seemed as though a long-term agreement with Punch was on the cards, bringing with it the promise of serious capital injection to improve the tired facilities. Sadly, however, it appears that the long period of underinvestment in the pub's infrastructure was just too much for a workable agreement to materialise.



Then came the news in December 2023 that the pub was up for sale with Savills. The village panic button was well and truly pressed - steam emerging from the village WhatsApp as it went into overdrive. The talk turned to how the pub could be saved from the hands of greedy developers who would turn it into residential property, with a car park full of flats. So, there was a mixture of apprehension and curiosity in January, when news dropped of the pub's purchase by John Dodd, the new owner of Wherwell Priory. With an almost immediate announcement that the pub was to be closed in late January, the magazine politely asked for an interview with Mr Dodd, which he very kindly granted.

Why buy your local pub?

It may come as a surprise to readers that Mr. Dodd has previous experience of pub renovation. (Continued)

As a part-Scotsman and recent resident of Glenogil in Scotland, he bought and modernised The Drovers, a

well-known pub in the village of Memus in Angus. The project was particularly popular with the local community and fishing fraternity on the nearby river South Esk. His motivation for buying the White Lion is similar - to preserve an asset for the community. He was familiar with the pub from friends who had visited it long ago and was keen to devote his resource to maintaining the vibrancy of what he describes as Hampshire's most beautiful village.

Why did the pub need to close?

A quick tour of the building reveals its extremely poor condition. Everyone knows how bad the loos are. Add to that the parlous state of the kitchen, cellar and accommodation, along with a leaking roof, disintegrating gutters and downpipes, and it is easy to see that huge investment is needed to restore the pub to a safe, hygienic and tradeable condition. And that's before you consider the poor state of the 'patio', the sorry look of the Lion's Den and, of course, the derelict barn.

Anyone who has used the pub would agree that a purely cosmetic treatment falls well short of what is necessary to attract customers from a decent radius. Repeat business is essential to supplement the volume of trade that a small village like Wherwell can provide on its own. And yet it is hard to imagine that many outsiders who visited the pub over the last twelve months would consider returning, given the very strong competition in the area. A lengthy period of closure is therefore to be expected, but with updates to be provided as the work progresses.

What happens next?

Within an hour of completing the purchase on 12th February, a team of six chaps were working to clear the building of rubbish, broken fittings and anything that posed an immediate health risk. Mr Dodd has already engaged an architect and surveyor to draw up a plan for renovation and stabilisation, but in a building that is Grade II listed, the process of agreeing with the planning department what can and

(Continued)

can't be done in terms of alterations and improvements may take a while. There will then follow the more enjoyable task of pulling together designs for the interior. Mr Dodd says it is too early to discuss how the bar will look and feel post renovation. The main objective is to turn the pub into a comfortable local serving traditional drinks and

food, with an emphasis on seasonal products. When asked whether there will be pies on the menu, Mr Dodd replies that “there will certainly be *a* pie, but not *nothing but pies*”.

As for the letting rooms upstairs and the outbuildings, it is very much a case of seeing what the planners say and assessing viability. In terms of community use, Mr Dodd certainly wants the pub to be available for use by local groups and societies.

Good news for Wherwell?

After the uncertainty regarding the pub's future and frustration at what many see as a failure to tap into the White Lion's undoubted potential, there is no question that this is a very positive step in the right direction. The last twelve months have shown that there is great support in the village for a well-run pub serving quality nosh. Alongside renovating the pub, Mr. Dodd is also busy undertaking a huge refurbishment of The Priory, where he and his family hope to settle for the long term. He is a man with a lot on his plate.

Stephen MacDonald



Stockbridge Community Cinema - March Films

Friday 15 March 7.30 pm

Alcarràs (15)

For as long as they can remember, the Solé family has spent every summer picking peaches in their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Catalonia. But this year's crop may well be their last, as they face eviction. The new plans for the land, which include cutting down the peach tree and installing solar panels, cause a rift in this large, tight-knit family. For the first time, they face an uncertain future and risk losing more than their orchard. *[In Catalan with subtitles]*

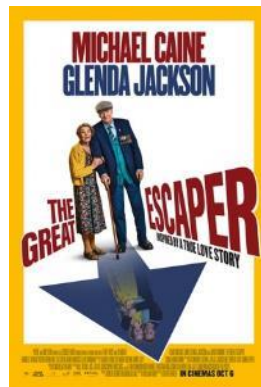
Wednesday 20 March 5.00 pm and 7.30 pm

The Great Escaper (12A)

In 1944, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by his wife Rene (Glenda Jackson), he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

Information common to both films:

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets are available online from 1 March (£6.00 incl £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no extra charge). Please visit our website for full details of our films.



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- 3 small cut daffodils/narcissi (same variety)
- Bunch of spring flowers arranged in a jam jar
- A spring arrangement in a teacup



Chilbolton village hall Tuesday 19th March 7.45pm

Raffle, refreshments visitors £3 donation please.

TEST VILLAGES U3A

Thursday 7th March

Mr James Smallwood FRCS presents: “The Black Stuff”

James, a recently retired consultant surgeon, will take us on a journey through the history and the natural world of melanin pigments and their health consequences in the human”.

Thursday 11th April

Maggie Shelton presents “Hampshire’s Chalk Streams”

Maggie, a landscape ecologist with the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust, helped co-ordinate the community-led, Heritage Lottery funded project, called the Watercress and Winterbournes. She will describe how the communities of the Test and Itchen headwaters set up projects and initiatives to improve the health and heritage of their beautiful chalk streams.

Meetings start at **14.00** (doors open at 13.40) in **Chilbolton Village Hall**

New members are very welcome to attend our meetings

Find out more about our Test Villages group at **u3asites.org.uk/test-villages**