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Charlton *Village* News



Quarterly Edition | March 2026

Celebrating the joys of the season and sharing updates and events - keeping our community connected

Community Hub Update

From Councillor, Clive Ward

Join the team behind our Community Day

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Calling local photographers... your photo could be our next front cover

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A spotlight on: Charlies Lake - A Community Gem

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Parish Council Updates

Update on Charlton Village Community Hub – your thoughts welcome



As many readers will know, the Parish Council has long envisaged a Community Hall/Hub that serves as a welcoming hub for residents and activities.

Our last proposal to build a Hub beside the Salto Centre was not approved by the Salto Board. However, with a recent survey showing strong support for a Community Hub, we're exploring new possibilities.

What's happening now - We've begun early conversations with TVBC and Places Leisure about the potential to include a Hub as part of any refurbishment or upgrade of the Charlton Lakes café. It's still very early days, but the aim is to upgrade the café to offer relaxed seating and reliable Wi-Fi, turning it into a genuine meeting place for residents.

What a Community Hub could look like...

- A large multi-use room adjacent to the existing building, suitable for clubs and activities.
- Folding doors to create a more private area for one-to-one services (for example, Citizens Advice drop-ins or a podiatrist).
- A dedicated drinks prep area and a computer point for internet access.
- A flexible main area that could be used for TV, music, talks, and group gatherings, with comfortable seating.
- Standard notice boards and smart boards to keep everyone informed with local information.

Shared facilities - Toilets would be shared with the café and would be available even when the café is closed, ensuring accessibility for all users.

What I'm asking from you - Your thoughts on the concept and what you'd like to see in a Community Hub. Any ideas or concerns about the café upgrade and the Hub layout. Suggestions for activities or groups you'd like to see in the space.

Next steps - We'll continue discussions with TVBC and Places Leisure and keep you updated as plans develop. If you'd like to share ideas or feedback, please contact me directly at clive.wardcvca@gmail.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in Charlton Village. Together, we can create a vibrant Community Hub that brings people together and enhances our everyday life.

Clive

Councillor, Clive Ward | Chairman – Charlton Parish Council



**Your thoughts,
your needs & what
you'd like to see.**

Every voice counts
Help shape our village

Keeping Charlton Village Tidy: Why It Matters

Litter is a constant challenge in Charlton. It's everywhere, and it can make our village feel untidy, less welcoming, and less safe for wildlife and pedestrians.

Keeping our village clean isn't just about appearances; it's about pride in our community, health, and the environment we share with neighbours and visitors.

Charlton Litter Pickers: A monthly push towards a cleaner village - Once a month on a Saturday morning, the Charlton Litter Pickers meet and give Charlton a good tidy up.

Upcoming dates: 21 March and 18 April. Meet at 09:30 at the bus stop.

If you would like to get involved, email clive.wardcvca@gmail.com



Charlton Waterside: Following some necessary 'tree works' the Waterside is open again. A few people have expressed an interest in managing the area so that it looks its best as we approach Easter and hopefully some nicer weather. Please email (clive.wardcvca@gmail.com) if you would like to know more.

Getting involved and making a difference - Small efforts add up: individual contributions, whether through regular litter picks or volunteering to help at Waterside, help keep Charlton welcoming for everyone. Community action creates a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. Your time, skills, or ideas can make a real impact... even a short commitment can help.



How you can help...

Join the next litter pick: 21 March or 18 April. Contact the organizer at clive.wardcvca@gmail.com to confirm your participation or to ask for more details.

Volunteer for Waterside care: Email clive.wardcvca@gmail.com to learn more and express interest.

Let's work together to keep Charlton tidy, safe, and inviting for residents and visitors alike.



LOCAL INFO

A list of useful telephone numbers

CHARLTON & DISTRICT PLAYGROUP

***NOW accepts** Government funding **from 2 years** of age.

Mon, Wed, Fri | 9am – 12:30pm

Tues, Thurs | 9am – 3pm

Contact: Mrs S Hartley

Telephone: 07979 841318

BROWNIES

Tuesdays | 5:45pm – 7:15pm

GUIDES

Wednesdays | 6:30pm – 8pm

Contact: Miss K Ryder

Telephone: 07917 697558 or 01264 316807

RAINBOWS

Wednesdays | 5pm – 6:15pm

Contact: Miss A Turner

Telephone: 07794 323293

Thursdays | 5:45pm – 7pm

Contact: Mrs E Taylor

Telephone: 01264 394322

KEEP FIT (all levels)

Thursdays | 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Contact: Mrs E Taylor

Telephone: 01264 394322

SLIMMING WORLD (Andover Rugby Club)

Tuesdays | 7pm – 8:30pm

Contact: Kate Evans

Telephone: 07568 622189

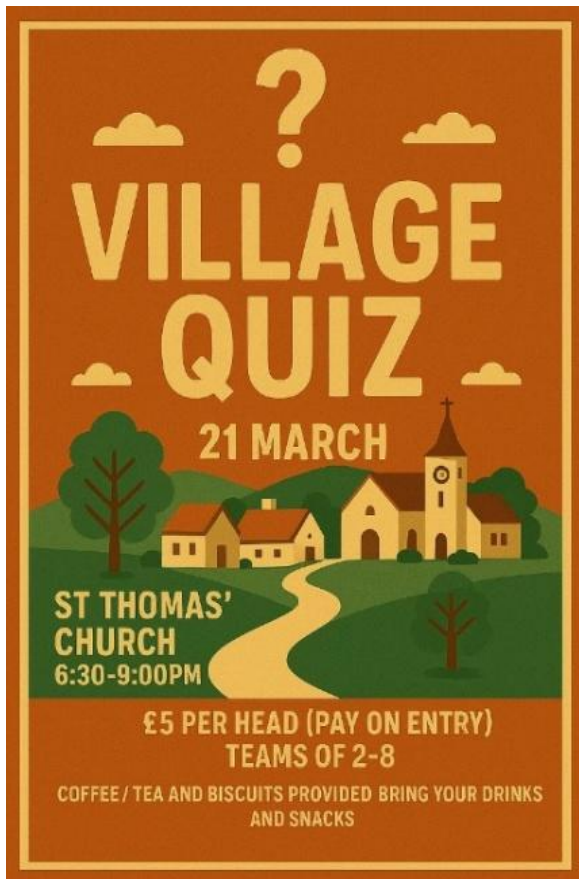
Stay Updated with Charlton Village News!

Sign up to receive the latest news and events directly in your inbox.

www.charlton-pc.gov.uk



Sign up for email alerts



Events Planned For 2026...

As we look ahead, excitement is buzzing for our upcoming community events, from your Charlton Village Community Association (CVCA).

These gatherings promise to unite individuals from all walks of life for moments of celebration, connection, and unforgettable shared experiences.



Here's a look at what we've got in plan for the first half of the year:



Village Quiz Night

21 March, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM - St Thomas Church

An energetic, all-ages evening of brain-teasers, laughs, and community spirit. Great questions, friendly hosts, and a warm village vibe.

Teams of 2-8, form a team in advance or join on the night - Prizes for the winners and light refreshments - All proceeds support local community initiatives

Entry - Tickets available at the door.

Don't miss this fun, community-building night. See you at St Thomas Church on 21 March!



🎵 Nokando – Music Night

25 April, 7:30-9:30 PM -- St Thomas Church

Nokando is a popular Andover-based live music band known for energetic 80s hits and rock covers in the Hampshire area. Fronted by vocalist/guitarist Kev Rees, the group often entertains audiences at local venues such as The Lights and St James' Church in Ludgershall, featuring members from the Test Valley Rock School. Expect nostalgic, high-energy 80s-inspired performances.

Tickets will be available soon.

Charlton Village Community Day: Volunteers Wanted!

Exciting news: planning has begun for a fun-filled Community Day on **Saturday, 4 July 2026**, and the Committee is steering the ship. We'd love your helping hands to make it unforgettable.

Here are the roles we're looking to fill:

Grand Draw: Recruit prize pledges and help with organisation

Arena Events: Plan arena activities and coordinate with performers

Advertising/Publicity: Spread the word and promote the event

Day-Of Helpers: Sell raffle tickets, stewarding, and marshalling

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch:

Email: charlton.andover@gmail.com or cliveward.cvca@gmail.com **Phone/Text:** 07538596344

Join us and be part of a village-wide celebration. Your time and talents will help create a fantastic day for everyone!



Parish Council Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting – 20 April, 7pm, St Thomas Church

A friendly review of the past year, a look at what's ahead, and a Keynote Speaker covering one of Charlton's current hot topics. After that, the floor is completely yours—whether you'd like to raise a concern, share an update, or simply listen in. It's relaxed, welcoming, and designed for residents to speak freely.

There'll be tea, coffee, biscuits... and even a glass of wine if that's more your style. The meeting lasts as long as residents want it to.

Monthly Parish Council Meetings

Held in public at **St Thomas Church** on the **3rd Monday of each month at 7pm** (except May, which is on 11 May, when the Chair and Vice Chair are chosen). We allocate 15 minutes on the structured agenda for public participation, during which residents may raise matters that relate directly to the published agenda items. Any resident may ask a Councillor to place an item on a future agenda, and then attend the relevant meeting to outline their issue or concern.

For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk - Eveline Attwood (details below)

**PLEASE COME
ALONG**
We'd be delighted
to see you there.

Contact details for your Parish Council members

Name	Telephone No.	Email Address	Role & Responsibilities
Clive Ward (Chairman)	07538 596 344	cllward@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Wider Local Government Initiatives, Community Hub, Charlton Lakes, Communications, CVCA Liaison, Emergency Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Traffic & Speed Watch
Norman Woods (Vice Chairman)	07799 408 978	cllrwoods@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Emergency Planning, Footpaths and Rights of Way, Book Exchange, Charlton Waterside, Community Hub
Keith Wilson		cllrwilson@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Charlton Waterside, Traffic and Speed Watch, Communications, Footpaths and Rights of Way
Tracey Tasker		cllrtasker@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Community Hub, Planning
Daniel Rawlingson		cllrrawingson@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Planning, Charlton Lakes, Charlton Waterside, Footpaths and Rights of Way, Neighbourhood Plan, Wider Government Initiatives
Peter Summers		cllrsummers@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Communications, Book Exchange, Charlton Lakes, Planning
Aaron Brown		cllrbrown@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Communications, Emergency Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Planning, Wider Government Initiatives
Emma Curry		cllrcurry@charlton-pc.gov.uk	CVCA Liaison, Neighbourhood Plan, Communications, Community Hub, Planning, Traffic and Speed Watch
Jayne Mockford		cllrmockford@charlton-pc.gov.uk	Book Exchange
Eveline Attwood (Parish Clerk)	07534 336 756	clerk@charlton-pc.gov.uk	

Contact details for your local Borough Councillor:

Linda Lashbrook	01264 773588 07766 708 061	cllrllashbrook@testvalley.gov.uk
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Contact details for your local County Councillor:

Chris Donnelly	07738 289 858	Chris.Donnelly@hants.gov.uk or cllrndonnelly@testvalley.gov.uk
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St Thomas, Charlton



The Pastrow Family...

is a benefice or collection of churches in and around the villages of Andover, North Hampshire.

Our overarching mission is '*to share the Love, Grace and Truth of Jesus Christ.*'

We achieve this by identifying, encouraging and developing the gifts and talents of our worshipping communities to share in Christ's mission and to work collegiately within the parish; strengthening communities and responding to the spiritual needs of the individuals and families we support.



Facebook: Family Matters In Our villages@pastrow

Website: www.Pastrowfamily.Org.Uk, or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Rev'd Alex Randle-Bissell, Priest-In-Charge, 01264 512161 revalex@pastrowfamily.org.uk

Judith Appleby, Benefice Administrator, 07999 352585 admin@pastrowfamily.org.uk

Services and Events @ St Thomas

Our beautiful Edwardian church, located at the heart of the village, has been thoughtfully adapted and extended to serve as a modern community centre.

All services and events at St Thomas can be found on the Pastrow Family website, where you'll also find information about the facilities, church services, and room bookings.

The church offers a wide range of services and programmes for all ages and styles of worship.

From Holy Communion and Family Services to Evensong and Encounters with Jesus — there is something for everyone in our community.



If you would like to sign up to the weekly newsletter

Grapevine

email eventsadmin@pastrowfamily.org.uk



Your Community Updates

Stories, pictures and updates shared by you...

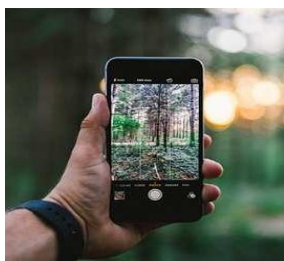
Mercia Avenue's Magical Winter Wonderland Raises Record Funds for Charity

Residents of Mercia Avenue have once again outdone themselves, transforming their street into an imaginative, colourful, and ever-growing Winter Wonderland throughout December. The dazzling Christmas lights have become a much-loved tradition, drawing families from Andover and the surrounding areas year after year.

Many visitors shared how much they look forward to returning each Christmas, with some saying the display has become a firm part of their family festivities. This growing enthusiasm was clear to see - not only did Mercia Avenue welcome a record number of visitors this year, but the generosity shown was equally remarkable.

Thanks to the kindness of everyone who stopped by, an impressive **£637** has been raised for the street's two chosen charities: **Alzheimer's UK** and the **Countess of Brecknock Hospice**.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all who visited, donated, and helped make the display such a success. **Syd Kassim and the residents of Mercia Avenue wish you all a healthy and happy 2026.**



Opportunity for Charlton Village photographers!!

Share Your Best Shots for a Chance to Be Featured on the Front Page

Calling all local photographers! Your best images of Charlton Village could be showcased on the front page of the next Charlton Village Newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure for your work and celebrate the beauty of our village.

How to participate:

Submit photos that capture the spirit, scenery, or everyday life of Charlton Village. Your image must be your own original work and should clearly depict Charlton Village or its surroundings.

Simply email your high-resolution (JPEG or PNG) with a brief caption or location note to accompany the photo to: editor@charlton-pc.gov.uk. **Deadline: Monday, 11 May 2026.** Please submit up to 3 photos per entrant.

Tips for great submissions: Choose well-lit, sharp images with clear focal points. Reserve portraits or candid village scenes with strong composition. Include a variety of perspectives: landscapes, streets, nature, and community life.

Selection process: A panel will review submissions based on quality, relevance to the village, and variety of subjects. The photographer of the selected image will be contacted for any formal permissions or adjustments needed.

Rights and usage: By submitting, you grant Charlton Parish Council the right to publish the image in the Charlton Village Newsletter and related Council materials. The Council may crop or resize images for layout purposes. Entrants retain copyright of their photographs.



"We can't wait to see your photos...!"



A SPOTLIGHT ON...



Charlies Lake: A Community Gem Where Nature, Families and Fishing Thrive

Tucked away in the heart of the countryside, Charlies Lake has quietly grown into one of the area's most cherished outdoor spaces — a place where anglers chase their next personal best, families reconnect with the outdoors, and wildlife flourishes in a safe, thriving habitat. What began as a local fishing spot has evolved into a true community hub, offering something special for everyone who visits.

A Lake That Brings People Together

Charlies Lake has become a gathering point for people of all ages. Whether it's seasoned anglers sharing tips on the bank, parents teaching their children to cast for the first time, the lake has a way of bringing the community closer. In a world that moves fast, Charlies Lake offers a rare chance to slow down, breathe, and enjoy the simple pleasure of being outdoors.

Local groups often use the space for meet-ups, and friendly competitions, helping to strengthen community ties. Many visitors say the lake feels like a second home — a place where friendships form as naturally as the ripples on the water.

Two Lakes, Endless Experiences

Charlies Lake is home to two distinct waters, each offering its own charm and challenge.

The Specimen Carp Lake

For dedicated carp anglers, the specimen lake is the crown jewel. Known for its impressive, hard-fighting carp, it attracts anglers from across the region. The lake is carefully managed to maintain fish health and water quality, ensuring every catch is as memorable as the last. Whether you're chasing a new PB or simply enjoying a quiet session, the specimen lake delivers an experience that keeps people coming back.

The Canal – A Family-Friendly Mixed Species Lake

The second lake, affectionately known as *the Canal*, is designed with families and casual anglers in mind. Stocked with a lively mix of species — from roach and rudd to perch, bream, and smaller carp — it's the perfect place for children and beginners to learn the ropes. The Canal offers constant action, plenty of smiles, and the kind of excitement that sparks a lifelong love of fishing.

Parents often comment on how refreshing it is to find a safe, welcoming environment where kids can enjoy the outdoors without screens or distractions. The Canal is more than a fishing spot — it's a place where memories are made.

A Haven for Wildlife

Beyond the fishing, Charlies Lake has become a sanctuary for local wildlife. The surrounding reeds, trees, and natural margins provide a home for countless species of birds, insects, and small mammals. Kingfishers flash across the water, dragonflies dance in the summer sun, and ducks glide peacefully along the margins. The lake's commitment to conservation ensures that nature thrives alongside the anglers who enjoy it.

Visitors often remark on the tranquility of the setting — the chorus of birdsong, the rustle of reeds, and the gentle splash of fish breaking the surface. It's a reminder that Charlies Lake isn't just a fishery; it's a living ecosystem.

A Place to Escape, Explore, and Enjoy

Charlies Lake stands as a testament to what a well-loved community space can be. It's a place where families bond, anglers challenge themselves, and wildlife finds refuge. Whether you're landing a specimen carp, helping your child catch their first fish, or simply enjoying the peace of nature, Charlies Lake offers an experience that stays with you long after you leave.

For locals and visitors alike, it's more than just a lake — it's a community treasure.





What's on...



Spring at the Village Pub

As the days grow lighter and the village begins to shake off winter, the local pub is gearing up for a lively spring season filled with events that bring neighbours together.

Whether you're popping in for a mid-week chat, showing off a classic motor, or testing your trivia skills, there's something for everyone and everyone is welcome.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings	Classic Car Meets	Sunday Night Quiz	Charity Car Wash
<p>Held from 10am on Wednesdays, these monthly gatherings are a chance to enjoy a warm drink, good company, and support a vital cause.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25 March - 29 April - 27 May - 24 June 	<p>A favourite for enthusiasts and curious onlookers alike, the pub hosts its Classic Car Meets from 7pm on Mondays. Expect gleaming bonnets, friendly chat, and a relaxed evening atmosphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 March - 27 April - 25 May - 29 June 	<p>Every Sunday from 7pm, the pub comes alive with its weekly quiz.</p> <p>A mix of friendly rivalry, laughter, and the chance to claim local bragging rights.</p> <p>Teams of all sizes are welcome.</p>	<p>On Saturday 4 April, from 10am to 3pm, the pub will be running a Charity Car Wash in aid of Macmillan.</p> <p>Bring your car, make a donation, and leave with both a shine and a smile.</p>



Oaktrack 'springs' in to action!

Signs of spring are beginning to show at Oaktrack, with daffodils and snowdrops now in full bloom. After a spell of unsettled weather, the longer, brighter days are a welcome shift.



The smallholding has already welcomed two litters of piglets, with more expected soon, and March marks the start of lambing. The Kerry Hill cross ewes will be brought back to the farm so their condition can be monitored closely, and the lambs will remain on-site until they're strong enough to return to grazing.

The horticultural side of Oaktrack is also bursting back into life. Staff and volunteers have been mulching, dividing perennials, sowing seeds and filling the polytunnel and greenhouses with vegetable seedlings ahead of the **Spring Plant Sale on Sunday 8th March, 10am-1pm**. Visitors can browse a wide range of seasonal plants, cottage-garden perennials and shrubs, and enjoy refreshments from the pop-up café, including tea, coffee, homemade cakes and bacon sandwiches.

The event will also feature handcrafted willow pieces from Steph at Floral Rebellion and ceramics from local potter Helen Robinson of Little Robin Pottery. Gardening expert and Oaktrack owner Tina, along with head grower Hazel, will be available throughout the morning with practical advice and tips.

Further details about this, other events, and what else Oaktrack has to offer visit www.oaktrack.co.uk, or on Oaktrack's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Other news...

Sharing a summary of Cllr Chris Donnelly's latest social post. A good-to-know update for everyone.

Potholes and Road Repairs

A quick update on potholes, budgets, and what's being done to improve our roads, straight from Cllr Chris Donnelly's recent social post.

The Challenge - Last month, Hampshire experienced **156% of the normal January rainfall**, driving up potholes across the county. Fixing all of Hampshire's roads would cost around £600 million, but the current highways budget is only £60 million—creating a substantial £540 million gap. Budgets are under pressure from rising costs in social care, education, and mandated services. National funding is limited and council tax increases are capped.

What We're Doing - Increased road treatment and resurfacing in Andover West, supported by additional teams and equipment (including jet/dragon patchers, patching gangs, drainage work, and refreshed road markings). Winter reality means temporary repairs are often necessary; permanent fixes will follow when weather allows. The current push is funded by reallocating underspends from other areas.

Progress Update - New resources deployed: more patchers, jetting machines, a dedicated flood team, an extra lining crew, and temporary infill where needed. The aim is to deliver longer-term repairs in the drier months, with more work planned for this summer.

Next Steps - Budget planning for 2026/27 to maximise funding for road maintenance. Expect over £10 million additional repair funding this summer. Introducing a disruption charge (lane rental) to speed up planning and reduce peak-time delays; any surplus would back highways maintenance.

Possible Solutions (What I'd Like to See) - National funding for social care at NHS-like levels. Rethinking SEN funding and how it's delivered locally. More devolved local decision-making to tailor services to community needs. Increased investment in road and transport funding via fuel and excise duties.

How You Can Help - Thanks to everyone reporting potholes—your reports help drive action. If you've got concerns, share them with us and we'll push for action in your area.

Thank you for reading. This update aims to keep everyone informed about the challenges and the ongoing efforts to improve our roads. Chris Donnelly remains committed to delivering progress and ensuring our communities aren't left behind.

CHARLTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Your village newsletter is created and distributed by wonderful local volunteers, and printed by Bulpitt Print Ltd.

The printed quarterly edition is delivered free of charge to over 970 homes across Charlton, shared with local businesses, and can also be downloaded from the village website.

Have a story to share?

We'd love to hear your stories, memories, updates, and any bits of village news for our next newsletter. **If you'd like to contribute, just drop a message to editor@charlton-pc.gov.uk.** They'll happily guide you through what's needed and help make sure your piece fits the newsletter format.

Deadline for input - 14th May, ready for the June edition.

*Acceptance of articles are subject to availability.

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Tuesday: St Ann's Hall, Andover

Zumba Gold 9am | Tai Chi QiGong 10am & 11am

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10 Classes £70 (£7 per class) 5 Classes £40 (£8 per class)

*Check my website or contact me for term dates

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Phone/WhatsApp: 07443 837472

Facebook: [@zenfitnessrachel](https://www.facebook.com/zenfitnessrachel)

www.zenfitnessrachel.co.uk



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📍 Locations & Class Times

St James' Church Hall, Hatherden SP11 0HT

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7.00 – 8.00pm: Men's Pilates

Tangley Parish Village Hall, SP11 0JE

TUESDAY

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6.00 – 7.00pm: Men's Pilates

THURSDAY

6.00 – 7.00pm: Men's Pilates

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Email: caron68@gmail.com or Mobile: 07779 578796

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Tina Wells, Charlton Down, Andover, Hants. SP11 0JA

Extending a welcome to the Charlton Village Community.



Charlton Park Crematorium. An oasis of calm in a hectic world.

Spring is nearly here at Charlton Park Crematorium and it's a lovely place to rest, reflect and find inner calm.

It's also a venue for many local family farewells, remembrance and memorial services..

You're most welcome to visit the crematorium's extensive, mature parkland and enjoy the peace. The grounds are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on weekends, all year round.

Charlton Park
Crematorium

Charlton Park Crematorium, Charlton Down, Andover, SP11 0TA. Tel: 01264 319 319



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I'm Kim, an independent funeral celebrant based here in Charlton. We only get one chance to say goodbye and that moment should feel right so I create thoughtful, personal ceremonies that truly reflect the life, character and values of your loved one.

My approach is simple: compassion, integrity and care at every step. I take time to listen to your stories, understand what matters most to you, and craft a ceremony that feels authentic, meaningful and beautifully written. No templates. No "one size fits all." Every service is completely bespoke.

You are welcome to contact me directly when the need arises, or simply ask for me by name when you meet your funeral director to let them know that you would like me to conduct the service.

Families often tell me how much it means to feel supported and gently guided during such a difficult time:

"Kim wrote and conducted the funeral service for our father, and her support was a source of immense comfort during one of the most difficult periods of our lives. From the very beginning, Kim was incredibly helpful, friendly, and polite. She guided us through the process with a perfect balance of professionalism and warmth. During our meetings, she asked thoughtful, sympathetic questions about our Dad's life, listening intently to every detail. Because of her care and attention, she was able to write a beautiful eulogy that truly captured our father's spirit. It didn't just list facts; it felt like she truly knew him. Kim conducted the service beautifully. Her delivery was calm and graceful, making the entire experience feel personal and respectful. We are so grateful for the peace of mind she gave us, and we 100% recommend her to anyone looking for a celebrant who will treat their loved one's memory with the utmost care."



kim@kimlund.co.uk



07867 472095



Kim Lund - Funeral Celebrant



kimlund.co.uk



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