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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CLIDDESSEN

Now I have recovered from my operation I am now resuming my role of reporting on our WI meetings. In March David Woolford, who is the husband of our WI County Adviser Alison, came along and gave us a talk entitled ‘The Air That I Breathe’. David had a double lung transplant in Papworth hospital following years of debilitating lung disease. He told us all about his life leading up to the operation, the anxious wait for his transplant once he had been put on the list and how his life has been transformed since his transplant. It was an inspiring story which brought to our door how medical science and these pioneering doctors are able to give back a quality of life to very sick people through transplants.

David is a very warm person who now helps to raise money for Papworth hospital by giving this talk and donating his fees. We can only wish him a long, happy and healthy life now.

Next meeting **April 17th 10.30am**
Show and Tell

Julia Ross is going to be taking over the role of Secretary from our coming year which starts in April. I have been helping her produce our program and she has put together some interesting talks and events – so watch this space.

The WI welcomes new members so please come along and join us if you would love to make new friends.

Diane Rampton Tel 01256 467533

Email dianelrampton@gmail.com

Next coffee morning

April 3rd



Yes, we now have table tennis available at Coffee Mornings at Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall.

Please come along to have a natter and make new friends, browse the second-hand book stall, select some pretty stationery from Penny our stallholder, and of course enjoy a good cuppa and a slice of cake!

The 100 club is also drawn here each month.

And, if you fancy, have a turn at table tennis. We have all the equipment you will need.

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month, from 10.30 – 12 noon.

Please note that the next coffee morning is April 3rd as April 10th is the Easter Bank Holiday.

Hope to see you there, all ages are welcome.

Gill (01256 359413)



SOCIAL EVENING & AGM

Discover how sick and injured wildlife is nursed back to health by a dedicated team of volunteers at a local wildlife hospital in a fascinating talk by Robyn Leslie Bsc (Hons), Msc

TUESDAY 25th APRIL – 7.30pm

Cliddesden VILLAGE HALL

EVERYONE WELCOME

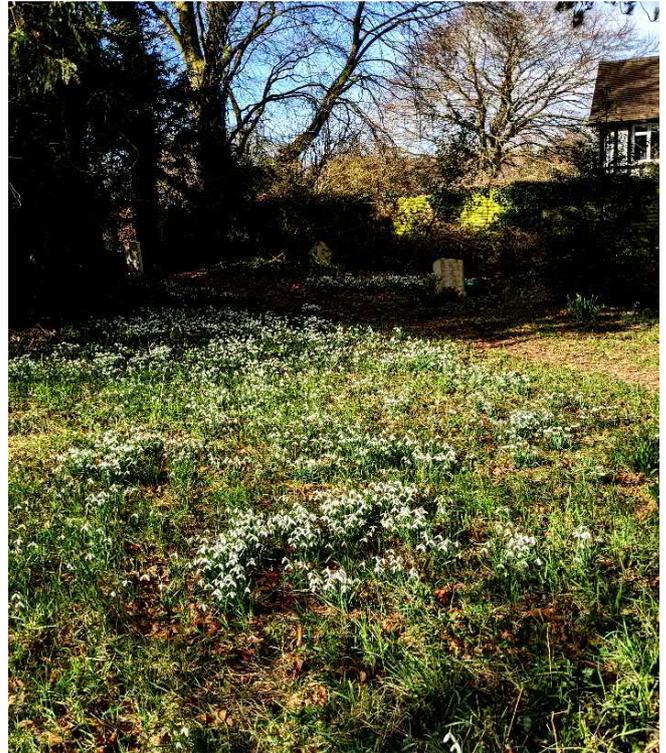
FREE ENTRY, BUFFET, BAR & RAFFLE



**HART
Wildlife
Rescue**



Snowdrops in St Leonard’s Churchyard



This year we have had a lovely show of snowdrops everywhere, including various areas of St Leonard’s Churchyard, a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), managed for diversity.

Plants like these bring immense enjoyment and comfort to all visitors to the Churchyard **and it is therefore clearly disappointing to observe that some have recently been deliberately removed.**

Please be aware that, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is a criminal offence to dig

up and remove these plants and bulbs, viz:

“Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is unlawful to uproot any wild plant without permission from the landowner or occupier. To uproot (digging) a plant means to 'dig up or otherwise remove the plant from the land on which it is growing', whether or not it actually has roots. Even plants growing wild are the legal property of somebody as they have been cultivated.”

Thank you.
On behalf of St Leonard’s District Church Committee



**St Leonard’s Church
Friday 31 March
3.45-4.30pm**

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard, make palm leaves to wave and listen to a story with hot cross buns and coffee.



Family Communion
at St Leonard’s Church, Cliddesden
9 April at 11.15am

You’re invited to celebrate Christ’s resurrection and message of hope in a friendly, all-age service. Kids big and small can search for mini-Easter Eggs in the churchyard afterwards.



Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop & Ellisfield Horticultural Society

The three villages Gardening Club

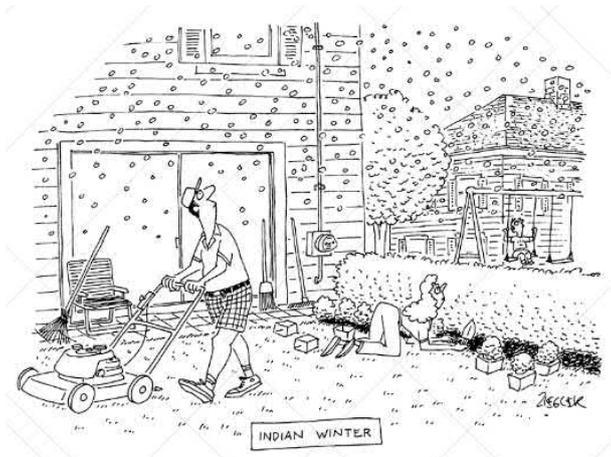
Chairman: Steve Bowcutt, tel: 324707, email: stephen.bowcut@btinternet.com
 Secretary: Marilyn Smith, tel: 462584, email: willow.ms@btinternet.com



Hello from Claire!

Have you wondered at the marvel of the plants around us, and how they cope with the sudden changes they experience? From the -7° cold snap, through rain, snow, and sunshine – often with hours of each other. And still they grow, survive, and thrive! My roses are starting to put new leaves out, and I so want to get there and prune back the dead and tidy them up, but I know that if I do another frost will bring die back. Gardening is an exercise in patience, of looking forward, and always believing that after the toil and hardship we will be rewarded with colour, beauty, and new growth.

Not a bad philosophy for life as a whole is it, really?



(Picture by Jack Zeigler – New Yorker Cartoonist)

What's been happening?

Thursday 30th March – Cliddesden Millennium Hall 7.45pm

Catherine Dawson – “Peat-free Composts”

Full report on this meeting will be in next months newsletter.

Sunday April 2nd – Spring Show –

The Spring Show will probably have taken place by the time you read this – so thank-you in advance for all your entries!

Full report next newsletter.

The Show Schedules cover both the Spring and Summer show, and are available as paper and email copies – don't forget to ask if you haven't received yours yet.

What's coming up?

Sunday May 7th – Plant Sale

11-1pm Cliddesden Millennium Hall

Our major fundraiser of the year.



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME

There is a lot happening in the outside world that weekend – the Coronation of King Charles III means that a lot of celebrations are happening.

Please make time to pop in and see us – we rely on the plant sales to boost the coffers and allow us to have such a diverse range of speakers throughout the year.

And as Charles is such a keen gardener, I'm sure he would encourage you to come along as well!

Thursday May 25th 7.30 for 7.45 start – Kat Freeman “Help your plants thrive the natural way”

Imperium Organics

Literally, superfood for your plants.

I highly recommend this – I use it myself and have seen fantastic results.

Kat definitely knows her stuff, is fun and engaging to talk to and listen to, and we will have a great evening!

Members £1, Guests £2, and refreshments are available before and after the talk for donations

Guests are able to join on the night

Thank-you to everyone who has now paid their Subs. If yours are still outstanding please could you sort that asap!

For those members who are not online and would prefer to pay in cash, contact your local committee member.

New members are always welcome, whether you are a keen gardener, or can't tell your pansies from your petunias.

To Join email Steve Bowcutt on stephen.bowcutt@outlook.com

See you at the next meeting.

Happy gardening!

Claire

100 Club Winners and Membership Renewal



The draw for March was called at the Coffee Morning held at the Village Hall on 13th March 2023. Here are the lucky winners. Congratulations:

1st: 80 Shelagh Trown

2nd: 148 Gillian Mitchell

3rd: 407 Robert McGregor

April is the start of the 2023/24 membership for the 100 Club and we are looking for new members to join and the renewal of existing membership.

There is no easier way to help with fundraising than joining the 100 Club, or increasing your "holding". More tickets sold mean more funds for the Hall and more prize money.

For people who are new to Cliddesden the 100 Club is a way to have a little flutter and help look after our lovely Millennium Village Hall. Each month half of

the proceeds are paid out as prize money; 1st prize 30% (currently £36), 2nd prize 15%, 3rd prize 5%. The remaining 50% goes to the Hall fund.

Membership is only £12.00 per year, per number, no limit per household.

There are a variety of ways you can make payment - Electronic Funds Transfer, Standing Order, cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to 'Cliddesden Village Hall'. The easiest method is Electronic Funds Transfer or Standing Order and the Hall's

bank details are on the form below. You can hand cheques and cash, along with the form, to Angie Fewster at Ridgewood House, Farleigh Road; Julie James at Leaview House, 10 Hackwood Lane; or Rose Beevers, Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane.

If for any reason you are an existing member and do not wish to continue to support the Village Hall via the 100 Club could you let me know and I will withdraw your number, otherwise your number will continue to run for 2023/24.

Rose Beevers, 01256 475944, 100Club@cliddesdenhall.org.uk.

CLIDDESSEN VILLAGE HALL '100 CLUB'

Registered by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council for the purposes of Section 5 of the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976
Promoter: Gregory Mendelsohn, 8 Southlea, Cliddesden, RG25 2JN. *Registered Charity No 257526*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

No of memberships Tick here if new membership Amount £

Method of payment Electronic Funds Transfer (preferred) Cheque Cash

I give permission for my name, address, telephone number and email address to be held by Cliddesden Village Hall 100 Club and used solely for the purpose of communicating with me with regards to the 100 Club

Your bank details for electronic payment of winnings (optional)

Account Number Sort Code - -

Cliddesden Village Hall bank details for Electronic Funds Transfer or setting up a Standing Order on-line:

ACCOUNT: CLIDDESSEN VILLAGE HALL
BANK: LLOYDS TSB, WINCHESTER ST, BASINGSTOKE
SORT CODE: 30-90-53 ACCOUNT No.: 01452048
REFERENCE: (your surname)

Please contact the 100 Club Secretary for a Standing Order Form if on-line set-up is not possible.

Social and Entertainment Club

Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

'You'll be sure of a warm welcome and a great evening'

The bar opens at 7.30pm and we start at 8pm. There is an intermission half way through during which ice creams and the bar are available. Admission is only £2 per person.



Thursday
6th April

Thursday
4th May

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Bend it like Beckham

1969

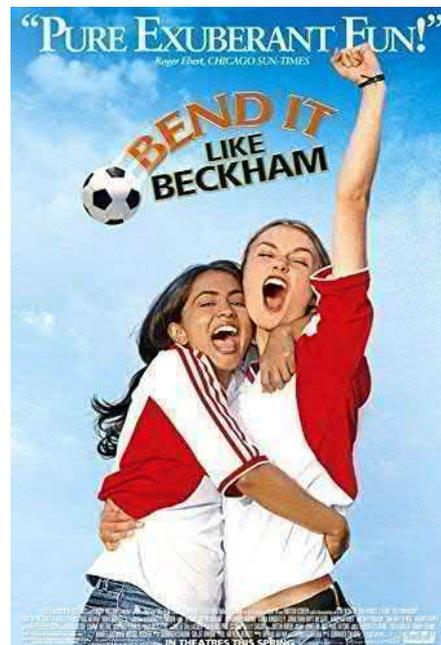
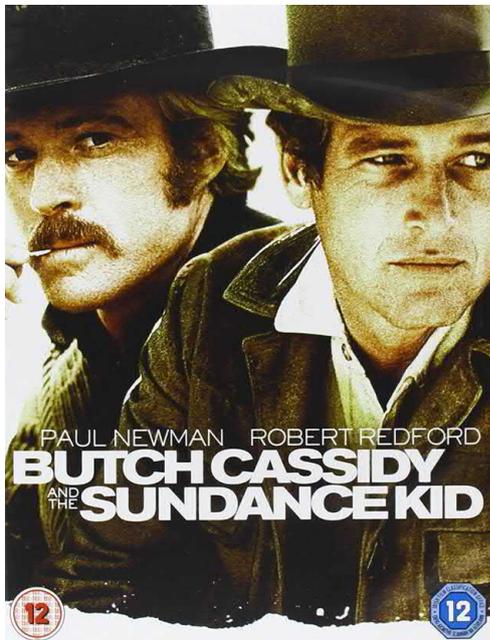
2002

110 minutes

112 minutes

Certificate PG

Certificate 12



Western directed by George Roy Hill (*The Sting*) and written by William Goldman. Based loosely on fact, the film tells the story of Wild West outlaws Robert LeRoy Parker, known as Butch Cassidy (1866 – 1908) played by Paul Newman, and his partner Harry Longabaugh (1867 – 1908), the "Sundance Kid" played by Robert Redford, who are on the run from a crack US posse after a string of train robberies. The pair and Sundance's lover, Etta Place played by Katharine Ross, flee to Bolivia to escape the posse.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid was selected by the American Film Institute as the 7th-greatest Western of all time.

92% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Redford won the Oscar for Best Actor and Newman was nominated, of the ten 10 Oscars awarded the film won 9 and gain a nomination in the 10th category.

Sports comedy-drama film directed by Gurinder Chadha. The film stars Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley.

The film received praise for the screenplay, light-hearted tone, and commentary on South Asian social norms and culture.

Bend It Like Beckham grossed \$76.6 million at the box office, making it the highest-grossing football film.

Rotten Tomatoes 85%.

Won the BAFTA Best Film and Golden Globe for Best Film – Musical or Comedy.

Edward Dowson

Camrose, Gilles, Hackwood & Beggarwood Surgery Patient Participation Group

Email: cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com Website: cghppg.co.uk

During a recent meeting with CGHB/Operose, it was agreed that a second Meet the Patients meeting with Maria Miller MP, would take place during the summer 2023. Maria Miller has confirmed she will be facilitating this meeting. Date to be confirmed. Future Operose newsletters are scheduled to include details on issues in respect of Dr.iQ training videos, and an explanation of the Team of Teams initiative for patient awareness.

Call wait times are starting to improve, and work continues in this area. There are general staff recruitment problems, with the national shortage of GPs causing difficulties. In line with NHS policy, CGHB proactively recruit other clinical roles, such as Advanced Nurse Practitioners, pharmacists and paramedics to provide a multi-disciplinary clinical team giving as many appointments as possible for patients. CGHB also use the NHS ARRS scheme, which provides funding for additional clinical roles, and draws on central support teams, i.e. pharmacists, to support their practices.

If a health matter is causing concern, and patients have difficulty contacting the surgery for an appointment, the 111 service is allocated a limited number of appointment spaces at CGHB and, depending on urgency, are able to contact the surgery to arrange a telephone appointment the same day.

Patient Participation Group News

Contact us with any surgery issues or concerns on the above email address. We continue in our endeavours to identify and resolve ongoing patient service problems with CGHB and Operose.

Items of Interest/Information

Open Sight: A Sight Loss Information and Equipment day is being held at St. Andrews Church Hall, Western Way, RG22 6ER, from 10.00 to 15.00 on the 20th March, with free entry and refreshments. This is an opportunity to try a range of aids and equipment for the visually impaired, and find out information in your local area. Contact Open Sight on 02380646380 or, email Pam.Bateman@opensight.org.uk.

Dementia Support: Basingstoke Discovery Centre hold social afternoons every Monday from 13.30 to 15.30, to help dementia sufferers using Arts and Crafts, Reminiscence, Cognitive Stimulation Games, Quizzes and Conversation. Full details can be found at: www.mydementiasupport.org.

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum: A free magazine created and distributed by BDDF has an

online version available at: www.bddf.org.uk. The magazine covers a wide range of subjects including physical and mental health, pain management, financial wellbeing, transport, and more.

Prescription Review Dates: we recommend that patients check the review date on their repeat prescriptions, and contact CGHB where necessary to ensure medication requirements are as up-to-date as possible.

Eating Disorders in Men: Beat Eating Disorders recently launched the UK's biggest survey on men's experiences with eating disorders, to better understand these complex mental illnesses. Results suggest around 1 in 4 of those with an eating disorder are male, and around 1 in 5 had never spoken about their struggles. If you, or anyone you know, needs help, contact: 08088010677 or, email: help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk.

Editor *Caroline Atkinson*



Carers Get Together

Come and meet other carers in this wonderful living history museum.

Join us for a cuppa in the vintage tea tent and feel free to enjoy the cobbled streets, seaside pier, teddy bears, vintage vehicles, sweet shop, gift shop and more.

Free entry from 11am till 1pm
Cared for also warmly welcome



15th Mar 17th May 14th Jun
12th Jul 16th Aug 13th Sep 11th Oct 15th Nov 13th Dec



Milestones Museum, Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG

If you would like to attend, please contact:
sharon.walsh@andovermind.org.uk
07507 968372



Cliddesden Primary School



It's been busy at school both in class and whole school events.



Beech Class

In Design Technology Beech Class has been busy learning all about freestanding structures. A freestanding structure is something that can stand by itself. We focused on bridges and we looked at a range of bridges thinking about which shapes provided the most stable bridge. We learnt that a triangle is the strongest shape and so we used lots of triangle frames in our designs.

We used a range of materials to make our bridges including spaghetti strands, play-doh, art straws, tubes and card. We enjoyed designing and building our bridges.



Chestnut Class

To finish our Science topic on solids, liquids, and gases, we experimented with erupting our papier-mâché Mount

Vesuvius models with a mixture of bicarbonate of soda, baking powder, vinegar, ketchup, mentos and coke.

We enjoyed watching them erupt on the school field.



Willow Class

This term we have been learning all about different people who help us. We were visited by the Basingstoke Fire and Rescue team, who let us explore their fire engine and taught us lots of things about the equipment they use to rescue people and sometimes animals! We got to see the specialist clothing they wear and we were allowed to sit in the cab and experience how high up it is!



KS2 Art Gallery Trip

Oak and Chestnut classes went to visit Southampton City Art Gallery. While we were there, we participated in an Art workshop where we made faces and human

figures using wire and pipe cleaners. We also had a tour of some of the more significant pieces in the collection: a portrait by Gainsborough, 'The Diver' by Antony Gormley, François-Pascal-Simon Gérard's portrait of Napoleon and a 14th Century triptych painted using tempera. We discussed how artists can use colour within their work to communicate meaning with their audience. After a brief lunch, we had time to explore the gallery more before we returned to school. Our guides, Ali and Lisa, were very informative and we learnt lots from them.



We Can Week and Winter Sports Day

This year Cliddesden took part in We Can Week, which is an event lead by Energise Me in partnership with the School Games organisers and local schools. The event aims to encourage healthy lifestyles and support emotional wellbeing.

Each day had a different theme:

Mindful Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Wellbeing Wednesday, Together Thursday and Physical Friday.

Throughout the week we participated in a range of activities across the school, thinking about how we stay healthy, work together, support each other and what we can try when we are facing challenges. The children participated thoughtfully and came up with some excellent suggestions.

To support Together Thursday and Physical Friday we held our annual Winter Sports day. This is always a popular event and the children were very enthusiastic about each event and showed many of our school values, in particular we saw great aspiration, teamwork and responsibility. Well done to everyone who took part and to our Sports Leaders who showed respect, tolerance and honesty throughout.

Basingstoke Sings – project with VoxFresh

Cliddesden Primary School took part in a Basingstoke wide singing project with VoxFresh. We learnt an empowering song ‘I am what I am’ by Emma Muscat, which empowers individuals to be themselves and be resilient when things get tough.

Singing is proven to help young people’s confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and general happiness giving them an outlet to express themselves and feel emotions.

The project allowed the children to experience recording equipment, including microphones, to record their singing. This was then edited together with all the other groups and schools to produce a music video – see our website: Events/ March/Basingstoke Sings to watch this fabulous performance.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day at Cliddesden. Once again, the children came to school dressed as either a book character or someone/thing from a non-fiction book. This year we even had a dinosaur!

The day included book themed activities, a special assembly where

some of the children got to show off their costumes and talk about their books. Oak class ‘buddied up’ with Beech to read some stories and Mr Davies visited the classes to do a bit of performance poetry.

Reading is a vital part of primary education and days like this help promote literacy and the pleasure that we can get from reading books.

Netball

Our fantastic netball team played St Anne’s, our last match in the Netball League before the finals in March. Although we missed Olivia and Riley, Annabella stepped into the team and played some fantastic netball. We won 11-1, going into the finals top of our league.

For more information about our school or to browse the many photos accompanying these events, please go to: cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

Paula Lavender

Fun in the snow



Farleigh Parish Playgroup



Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Friday Mornings 11am-12noon Term Time

Easter holidays. 21st and 28th April
5th, 12th, 19th and 26th May

0 - 4 year olds and their grown-ups

A warm welcome awaits you - we look forward to you joining us

Cost: £2 donation per family

Contact:
Melanie (07833 528040)
Claire (07757 498653)



CHILDREN’S SINGING GROUP



A fun, free, friendly group.

Come along, meet new friends, and learn new songs from a professional music teacher!

Every Friday during term time

3.45pm snack, 4-4.30pm singing

ST LEONARD’S CHURCH, CLIDDESSEN



CLIDDESSEN PARISHIONERS

are warmly invited to the

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 12TH MAY

to be held in the Millennium hall

Doors open 7pm refreshment available

This will be a short and sociable event, with wine and snacks, and the opportunity to discuss issues relating to the Parish.

The Parish Assembly is your opportunity to give feedback, raise questions and concerns, and suggest projects for next year. Hopefully we will be able to welcome our County and

NOTES FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Local elections will be held on Thursday 4th May, a reminder to all that voter ID will be needed.

Parish Council elections are due for Cliddesden this year. A 'Notice of Election' will be posted on the Parish Council website.

NPPF Consultation The Parish Council responded to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities' consultation, see the Parish Council website.

Local Plan Update BDBC's next public consultation (Reg 18) on the Draft Local Plan continues to be scheduled for this Autumn.

S106 funding from Broadview (Cleresden Rise). The Parish Council agreed that outstanding developer contribution for 'equipped play' provision be allocated to the Hatch Warren play area.

Pond project Regarding outstanding 'open space' S106 funding, the Parish Council confirmed its agreement for the floating islands project for the pond.

Pond notice board A new three-bay notice board will be ordered.

Village information 'interpretation' board agreed with thanks to Alison Mosson and Dave Brown for providing design and art work – which can be mounted on the back of the new noticeboard.

Phone box Door repairs are in hand with thanks to Mark Gifford, dry weather needed for completion. Thanks to all who keep the book shelves looking tidy, and a note to please avoid putting books on the floor as they get wet.

Farleigh Road pavement to M3 bridge. Encroaching vegetation and plant detritus (the pavement ever more narrow) has long been logged with HCC Highways. Thanks to Mark Gifford for clearing and cutting back.

Parish Lengthsman Visit scheduled for 8th March. Tasks include checking and recording the state of pond silt traps and clearing as necessary. [In the event, all other jobs postponed due to snow.]

Next Parish Council meeting will be the AGM of Tuesday 09 May.

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00601/HSE (Validated 15 March) Swallick Cottage, Alton Road. Erection of a part single storey and part two storey rear extension.

23/00553/HSE (Validated 07 Mar) 1 Chapel Walk. Loft conversion.

23/00168/GPDE (Granted 06 March) Swallick Cottage, Alton Road. Single storey rear extension (permitted development notification).

22/03290/FUL (Pending, 16 Dec) Land south of Myhaven, Woods Lane. Erection of 28 new dwellings and demolition of Newland Lodge.

22/02233/HSE (New plans 09 March; pending 09 August 2022) 27 Southlea. Home workshop/office/playroom; new access, entrance gates.

22/01551/PIP (Refused 23 March) Land south Woods Lane. Permission in Principle for up to nine dwellings.

22/01550/PIP (Pending, 08 June) Land rear Manor Farm. Permission in Principle for up to nine dwellings.

22/00466/FUL (Scheduled for Development Control Committee of 29 March, recommendation for Approval) 11 Woods Lane. Development of one detached and pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated access and landscaping.

TREE APPLICATION

T/00042/23/TCA (Approved 09 March) Glentara and Fairhust, Farleigh Road. T1 Apple – crown reduce by approx 1-2m. G2 – Maple, Cherry, Birch. Crown lift to 3m above ground level. Reduce branches overhanging garden by approx 1-2m

ENFORCEMENT APPEALS

23/00002/ENF and **23/00003/ENF** APP/H1705/C/23/3314607 (lead case) and **3314608** (Start date 09 February) Faerie Meadows, 14 Hackwood Lane. Appeal against Enforcement notice relating to alleged breach of planning control that without planning permission, material change of use of the land from agricultural use to residential use together with associated paraphernalia.

Environment Directorate: Nesting birds and their Protection Generally speaking most birds tend to nest between March and July, but this depends on the location of the nest, the weather and the species. Pigeons for example will nest all year and robins have been recorded nesting in December.

Many species also have multiple broods, which can extend to August and September. Many birds we think of as common, such as house sparrows and starlings, have seen declines in recent years. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law so it is an offence (with some exceptions) to • intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird • intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built • intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. It would be an intentional act, for example, when you knew there is an active nest in the hedge but you cut the hedge damaging the nest in the process. A nest is considered as being built when a single piece of nest material has been placed by the bird.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW HOUSING IN CLIDDESSEN PARISH

Cliddesden, as is well known, is increasingly a focus for developer interest. Recent planning applications include for Land south of Woods Lane (nine houses), Land to the rear of Manor Farm (nine houses), and Land south of Myhaven (28 houses).

LAND SOUTH OF WOODS LANE

Planning application (22/01551/PIP) has been refused by BDBC, extracts below from the Case Officer report...

It is recommended that the application be refused for the following reason:

'The location of the development would adversely impact upon the setting of Cliddesden at its western edge through the loss of countryside which contributes to the functional and visually coherent character of the countryside in the immediate area.

'Through the introduction of domestic built form and residential paraphernalia within the countryside, along with the associated infrastructure, the development would have a harmful and urbanising effect upon the rural character and appearance of the area at the entrance to the village.

'The development would not satisfactorily integrate into its setting or positively contribute to the overall quality of the area contrary to: Sections 12 and 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021), Policies EM1 and EM10 of the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan, Section 4 of the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document (2018) and the Cliddesden Village Design Statement (2004).'

Planning balance/conclusion

'The development would deliver a quantum of housing... which would make a positive contribution towards a shortfall in housing land supply. This could also include the provision of affordable housing which is a further positive benefit. These factors weigh significantly in favour of the development.

[However] 'The harm identified is considered to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, therefore in taking all material planning considerations into account, the development is not considered to represent sustainable development as required by Paragraph 11 of the NPPF. The application is therefore recommended for refusal.'



MARCH REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JULIET HENDERSON

County Council budget Hampshire County Council (HCC) has agreed its £2.6bn spending plans for 2023/24. HCC's Precept (its portion of the Council Tax) for the next financial year will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults social care. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 – an increase of £69.45 – for a Band D property.

Council Leader, Cllr Rob Humby, said: 'Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures which are pushing up costs, and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding.

'In order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls.

'The increase will generate £37m of vital extra income towards the delivery of crucial services to the people of Hampshire in 2023/24, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

Schools More than 97 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023, with 90 per cent offered a place at their first preference school. The County Council received 15,400 on-time applications this year – an increase of 418 compared to the number received for places in September 2022 (14,982).

At the time of the implementation of the Special Educational Needs Reforms in 2014, Hampshire County Council was supporting around 5,000 children with special educational needs. Since the reforms, this figure has risen to over 15,000 children. Such increases do place significant pressure on local authorities' ability to provide support.

Grants to fight rural crime Hants Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones has announced grants to help tackle rural crime, supporting initiatives to reduce rural crime or support victims. The application window closes at 2pm on Friday 21 April and successful applications will be announced in mid to late May. Applications can be made at:

www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-together/funding/apply-for-funding

Consultation on 'post-16' transport policy The County Council has launched its annual consultation on the Post-16 Transport Policy. This policy outlines the provision of transport for young people over the age of 16 with special needs or disabilities, who require additional support to access education or training suitable to their needs.

The consultation includes an opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in the parental contribution by 27.1%, in line with the increased costs of running the service. This increase is being driven by national driver shortages, a limited number of transport operators on the market, and an increase in fuel prices. Families in receipt of income-based free school meals and certain means-tested benefits will not be required to pay an annual charge.

The consultation will run for a period of six weeks until 11.59pm on Sunday 2nd April, please visit the HCC website for details.

Coronation grants A new grant window for Hampshire County Councillors will open from 1st to 21st April. 'Member's Grants for the Coronation' will offer grants up to £1k to support local events. You can see details at

www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor

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