

Hi All, I believe we are now fully into the swing of Spring even if as I am writing this the weather has not received the memo! It's blowing a hooley! The blossom is coming out on the trees and all the spring bulbs are popping up everywhere! I love walking round the village and seeing all the beautiful flowers and how the whole community is so dedicated to keeping our village looking fantastic.

On this subject, I wanted to highlight the amazing volunteers who worked extremely hard doing a litter pick this last month, after some unsavoury characters decided to decorate our village with nitrous oxide canisters. I know many people from the village clubbed together and set out down our various streets to collect them all and dispose of any other litter correctly. Our village wouldn't be the lovely place it is without many people volunteering the time to keep it so.

I know you will have all seen that work has started on the conversion of The Cock to 3 dwellings, while it is sad that the pub was not able to remain open, the Parish Council is working closely with the developers to try and retain any important historical elements that we can. A resident helpfully pointed out to a councillor that there is a historically important "Stirrup Stone" outside the front that would be wonderful to retain as part of the development. Our village is so full of history and together we can work to protect as many things as possible. If anyone is interested in learning more about the village history, why not join the Historical Society!

We are working on getting some noticeboards up at either end of the ford, with detailed historic information and ideas about local wildlife, flora and fauna that you might see at the ford. The PC is also repairing the kissing gate by Violets Close, so if anyone spots any other maintenance jobs that may need doing, please do contact a member of the PC for us to investigate.

We have published our biennial village survey and we want your thoughts! Please do complete the survey as we really want to hear about what you want from your Parish Council and any feedback is gratefully appreciated. Please see the QR Code for you to use! Please just scan on your phone and it should take you right to the survey! You can also pick up a paper copy of the survey from the village shop, just pop in and ask, they can be returned to the new Parish Council letterbox which can be found on the institute adjacent to the defibrillator.

On a more personal note, my wonderful husband is training for the Milton Keynes Marathon taking place on the May bank holiday – he has decided to raise money on behalf of the FONS so all donations will go to our local school. If anyone would like to donate, please see my post with the JustGiving details on the community Facebook page.

As I write this last section, I am sitting in the Chequers and am pleased to say that it is buzzing on a Monday night! We are so lucky in our village to have a thriving community with so many local events going on! This last month there has been a quiz at The Chequers raising money for Willen Hospice, Disco Bingo put on by the Cricket Club and there is the Bingo club every Thursday! There are also some upcoming events, the FONS Easter Egg Hunt is on the 3rd April, as well as a Bowls Club Quiz, a Church Coffee & Bells Morning, so why not get involved with an event this spring or try something new!