

Char Chat News

UPDATE 1

For residents and our guests in

Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Morcombela

Stanton St Gabriel, Fishpond, Ryall and Monkton Wyld

March 2020

Welcome to the Char Valley Parish Council newsletter

Important Information

The spread of Coronavirus COVID-19, is a serious threat to everyone. Some of us may feel that the threat is exaggerated and, indeed, may be healthy enough to brush it off. Unfortunately, there are many people of all ages who are considerably more vulnerable.

PLEASE read Page 4 for important information about coordinating services for anyone in isolation who needs help.

While we cannot provide better advice than that supplied by the Government, we do receive localised information which we want to share with you. *The quickest, most effective, and achievable means of communication is through E-MAIL.*

If you wish to receive relevant local information,

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

by sending an email to our clerk, Annette, at

charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

With the subject title EMAIL LIST.

We will not share your email with any other organisation or individuals.

If you are unable to receive emails, please consider providing us with a contact phone number.

As a precaution, we have **POSTPONED** our planned open day on the **Climate and Ecological Emergency** and its relevance to Char Valley, due to be held this **Saturday, March 21st** in Whitchurch Village Hall. Apologies to all who had planned to attend, and there were many both within our local parishes and beyond, but we will rearrange for later this year.

The Editor

Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) is a group council made up of the civil parish councils of Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonorum (North and South), and Wootton Fitzpaine.

Because each separate council is small, we join up for meetings so we can take decisions together and achieve more.

The combined civil parish stretches from the Jurassic Coast to the Marshwood Vale, all falling within the West Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

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If you have any issues, concerns, suggestions, or questions about our local parishes, please contact our parish clerk, Annette, who will be able to direct you to a member of the Parish Council.

Opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily represent the views of CVPC as a whole.

CVPC Meetings

CVPC meets monthly except in August and December. Being a group council, our meetings are held in each of our village halls in rotation—James Hargreaves Hall in Morcombelake (JH), Whitchurch Canonorum village hall (WC), and Wootton Fitzpaine village hall (WF). All our meetings are open to the public and we welcome participation. The meeting minutes and agenda are posted on parish notice boards. You are welcome to come along to any of these meetings.

Our meetings start at 7:30pm, with the following schedule:

6th Apr 2020 (JH) 11th May 2020 (WF) 8th June 2020 (WC) 20th Jul 2020 (JH)
14th Sept 2020 (WC) 12th Oct 2020 (WF) 16th Nov 2020 (JH)

NB: We may need to change the dates or formats of these meetings based on HMG's advice.

Staying in touch

It will really help us save (your!) money and get news to you faster if we can communicate by email. For example, we would like to send future issues of this newsletter by email. We will never give or release your email address to anyone else and we promise not to bombard you!

If this works for you, please send an email to our clerk,

Annette, at: charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

If you're not a fan or user of email, we will continue to produce the printed version of this newsletter. And if you cannot access any of the online articles mentioned in this newsletter, please contact our Clerk for a printed version.

CVPC COUNCILLORS

REPRESENTING WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM (NORTH)

Hilary Joyce (chairman)	01297 560298	E: becklandsorganicfarm@icloud.com
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REPRESENTING WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM (SOUTH)

Julia Eager	01297 561688	E: juliaeager@me.com
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REPRESENTING WOOTTON FITZPAINE

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REPRESENTING STANTON ST. GABRIEL

Andrew Carey	01297 560057	E: andrew@westhay.com
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CLERK

Annette Marks	01308 459268	E: charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
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Talk with your Councillors

Parish Councillors will be available to talk with local residents and visitors individually in the half hour preceding the CVPC meetings being held at the times and venues listed above

News: Sources

It is very common for everyone to want to share their latest update on any interesting story, whether it's something that they've read or something they've heard from a friend. The availability of vast amounts of information and opinions through the internet can be both illuminating and misleading. Unfortunately, something as attention grabbing as this Coronavirus pandemic can lead to us being swamped with information that includes many statements that cannot be verified.

You may well have your own trusted sources and have your own opinions about sources recommended by Government. As a part of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, we have been advised that the following sources of information could prove useful for you:

- **Public Health England** has FAQs that will be updated regularly [<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>]
- This guidance, developed with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, aims to assist **employers and businesses** in providing advice to their staff [www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19]
- You may find the advice from ACAS useful in considering any **employment-related** matters [<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>]
- For further reading, the Local Government Association has published a very useful list of different **government advice sources** [<https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils>]

Protecting Others

Everyone, you, your children, your parents, your friends, your neighbour, can reduce the impact of this virus just by simply cleaning your hands regularly. You may not be infected, but that person who touched the door 5 minutes ago could have left traces and you could carry those traces

on to another door, or a friend or relative without infecting yourself. That friend or relative may not be as healthy as you and much more vulnerable to this virus. This isn't a case of being 'macho' and saying that this virus won't get me, the virus can use you to get to others.

Fraud related to Coronavirus: A message from Dorset Police

Since February 2020 the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800,000. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers.

Fraudsters are also sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails in an attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial details.

Some of the other tactics that NFIB has identified from victim reports include:

Fraudsters purporting to be from research organisation's affiliated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) contact potential victims over email. They claim to be able to provide the recipient

with a list of coronavirus infected people in their area. In order to access this information, the victim needs to click on a link, which leads to a malicious website, or is asked to make a payment in Bitcoin.

Watch out for scam messages:

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Shopping online:

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

Char Valley Parish Council is providing support to help you through these uncertain and worrying times.

Helping neighbours is something we are naturally very good at doing in this area and many of you will already be making personal arrangements with friends, family and neighbours.

We know many vulnerable residents are self-isolating already and the situation is moving hourly. Government provisions may kick in at some time but, meanwhile, there are local volunteers who are available to co-ordinate offers and needs for shopping, medicine collection and practical help if required.

If you can **offer help or need it**, please contact one of the four coordinators listed below with your contact details preferably by email, or otherwise by telephone. They will try to put offers in touch with requests. Please also urge those who have email access to sign up to our email list for future communications.

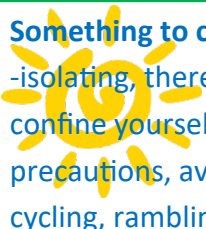
Coordinators are:

Morcombelake: Clare Mahaddie
clare.mahaddie@icloud.com 01297 489813

Stanton St Gabriel: Andrew Carey
andrew@westhay.com 01297 560057

Whitchurch Canonorum: Carolyn Peck
carolyn56peck@gmail.com 01297 489185

Wootton Fitzpaine: Debby Snook
debsnook@aol.com 01297 561395

 **Something to cheer about.** At last the Sun is shining and we can see Spring arriving. Even if you are self-isolating, there are beautiful walks and open spaces out here in West Dorset so you don't have to confine yourselves indoors, come out and enjoy this area of outstanding natural beauty. Take the right precautions, avoid unnecessary contact, but keep yourselves as active as you can either walking, cycling, rambling, or just looking at it from the car.

Char Valley Parish Council