

# Char Chat News

For residents and our guests in

Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Morcombelake

Stanton St Gabriel, Fishpond, Ryall and Monkton Wyld

July 2020

## Welcome to the Char Valley Parish Council newsletter

### Summer 2020...

The World has had, and continues to have, some great challenges in dealing with Covid-19. Here has been no exception and our sympathies are with those who have lost family and friends and suffered illness.

Things will continue to be difficult in the coming months and years as we re-build and adapt to the consequences of this pandemic.

Along with everyone in the community we thank all the key workers who have risked their own well-being to continue to keep us safe and protected.

In addition, it's an enormous thank you to all of our community who worked together to look after each other, to take the time to care for others, to help shield and protect neighbours, friends, and relatives. And, all those who answered the call for practical help making PPE, providing accommodation for key workers, delivering medicines and food...

It was, and continues to be, a great demonstration of the strength of our local communities and the value of the people living here.



Two other challenges remain dominant in our Parishes: first the challenge of responding to the climate and ecological emergency. In this Newsletter, we provide some updates and ask you to bring any positive experiences from the Covid lockdown to suggestions for local change that we can make going forward.

The second challenge remains the effect of Brexit on our communities. This still remains uncertain as we await developments in the negotiations and we will address that later in the year.

**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.

*The Editor*

## 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). The meeting minutes and agenda are posted on parish notice boards and website. All our meetings are open to the public and we welcome public participation.

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

20th Jul 2020 (online)	14th Sept 2020 (WC)
12th Oct 2020 (tbd)	16th Nov 2020 (JH)

Our July meeting will be held digitally. As always, our meeting is a public meeting so please contact our Clerk if you wish to take part.

## Staying in touch and reducing paper usage

**Thank you** to those who have already signed up to receive communications by email—we've reduced the print and postage volumes by 20%.

We will never give or release your email address to anyone else and we promise not to bombard you!

If you haven't signed up and this would work for you too, please send an email to our clerk, Annette, at: [charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto: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. Similarly, if you find that you cannot access any of the online articles mentioned in this newsletter, please contact our Clerk for a printed version.

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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



## Climate and Environment: There is some good news

Early in March, CVPC reluctantly but sensibly cancelled the Char Valley Parish Council's Climate and Environment Emergency public meeting which would have been held on 21<sup>st</sup> March this year.





If it had gone ahead, you would have heard from local experts like Dr Ruth Fuller (WWF), Professor Jim Rose (Univ. of London), Hannah Jefferson (National Trust), Prof. Howard Atkinson (Univ. of Leeds), David Dixon (Bridport Town Council), Kit Vaughan (ex WWF), Dr Owen Day (marine scientist), Kelvin Clayton (Dorset Council), Henry Lovegrove (Dorset Community Energy), Simon Fairlie (The Land Magazine).

The first thing to notice is the amazing range of expertise that we have on hand with people like these living locally.

The second is that they would have warned that things are going from bad to worse:

- ◇ Levels of greenhouse gases and ocean acidification increase continuously. 
- ◇ Insect populations have fallen dramatically (50-80%), as have the numbers of those invertebrates, birds, amphibians (toads down 68% in 30 years) and mammals (hedgehogs down two thirds in 13 years) that feed on them.   
Skylarks and cuckoos, curlews and fieldfares have largely disappeared from our countryside.

With an average global temperature rise of 2.0°C now increasingly likely according to the UN:

- ◇ 99% of coral reefs will die 
- ◇ Insects, vital for pollination of crops and plants, are likely to lose half their habitat 
- ◇ The Arctic Ocean is likely to be completely bare of sea ice in summer, once a decade 
- ◇ Sea-level rise will be 1 metre more than at 1.5°C, threatening hundreds of millions of people worldwide and driving mass migration and mounting political and economic instability. 

However, in the face of all this, remarkable things are happening in our communities. In nearby Lyme Regis, there are a whole range of initiatives with Turn Lyme Green, the One Planet Working Group, Plastic Free Lyme and The Word Forest Organisation. In Bridport, Transition Town Bridport, the Town Council's Tree Plan and Climate Emergency Plan and many other projects are changing the way we behave and transforming the landscape for the better.

In the Char Valley, the River Char Community Project (described in the last issue of Char Chat) is engaging the community in a scheme to manage the whole river better, clean up the water and revive the health and biodiversity of the whole river catchment. Funding has been obtained by the parish council to proceed with research into this matter.

Meanwhile, 'Char Valley Lifelines' is an independent, community-led project to map all the land (from gardens to farms) where no chemical pesticides are used – and then join them up to create chemical-free corridors to support wildlife—see page 5.

The wildflower meadows at Hogchester Farm are again open to the public this summer and the National Trust's orchid and wildflower meadows on Stonebarrow are a haven of wildlife. Prime Coppice Working Woodland is being restored and managed with working horses. At Fivepenny Farm and Monkton Wyld Court there are pioneering initiatives on agroecology and co-operative farming and agriculture. There are real signs that local communities are transforming themselves in preparation for the worst that the climate and environmental emergency may bring. We know that... and we have seen just how much is possible given the local, county and national response to Covid-19.

So there is shock and sorrow at what we have lost and are continuing to lose. And there is joy and excitement at what we are discovering is possible when we work together. Grief and hope interwoven. There is room for it all.

Go to [www.charvalley.org/environment](http://www.charvalley.org/environment) for more details.





## Climate & Environment Emergency Action Plan

Earlier this year, Char Valley Parish Council developed and agreed a Climate & Environment Emergency Action Plan. It was approved unanimously at the council meeting in January this year and submitted to Dorset Council in response to its 'Call for Ideas' about the Climate Emergency.

The plan recognises that, in the Char Valley, we will be directly affected by climate changes, extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, loss of pollinator insects, etc. and indirectly affected by large-scale, climate-led population upheavals and migration, political, economic and social disruption, crop failures and food shortages originating elsewhere in the world.

We all need to do what we can to a) Mitigate the worst effects of the emergency and b) Adapt, build resilience and prepare for major change.

In building resilient communities to face problems in the future, we can also build thriving communities that work better now.

For the parish council, this means that we must do three things:

- 1) Put our own house in order.
- 2) Lead and support action by the community.
- 3) Work to bring about change at the next layer up (Dorset Council).

So our Action Plan includes 21 detailed proposals for getting started. They draw on suggestions made by other councils and organisations and our own response to the situation locally. You can read the full text of the plan and see all 21 proposals at [www.charvalley.org/climate-action-plan](http://www.charvalley.org/climate-action-plan)

Some highlights of the plan are:

- ◇ Support local planning applications that minimise carbon emissions and other impacts on the environment
- ◇ Actively support local farmers in their efforts to adapt to climate change and develop forms of regenerative agriculture.
- ◇ Support Dorset Council's Low Carbon Dorset initiative and press the council to audit and report its current carbon footprint and year-by-year reduction targets.
- ◇ Work to get as many Dorset schools as possible to participate in one of the green school projects (which offer resources for students and teachers to work together to reduce the school's carbon footprint and increase environmental awareness).
- ◇ Develop a community website and encourage residents to use it (with a community facebook page) to share information and resources; to offer help and lifts; to organise bulk purchases, etc. This is a community resource now and an active preparation for more self-sufficiency/resilience in future.
- ◇ Support community-led efforts to reduce and, eventually, eliminate the use of chemical pesticides and insecticides in the parish.
- ◇ Actively support projects where the community/residents seek to buy/repurpose land/field(s) in the parish for use as allotments/orchard/forest garden.
- ◇ Press Dorset Council to stop immediately the process of selling estate properties, to retain all its estate properties and to make them the centrepiece of a county-wide demonstration and education project to support biodiversity and environmental regeneration and demonstrate good practice in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. [www.charvalley.org/climate-action-plan](http://www.charvalley.org/climate-action-plan)



## Going forward...

While this has been a particularly hard time for some, especially key workers and those shielding or living alone, many local residents have found unexpected benefits from lock down - particularly living in this area of outstanding natural beauty. Examples that have been highlighted to us, include:

- ◇ the opportunity to spend more time every day outdoors walking or in our gardens
- ◇ much less traffic – making roads safer and quieter and more pleasant for walking and cycling
- ◇ watching the spring and summer in all their glory from blackthorn, wild daffodils and nesting robins to hawthorn, eglantine, orchids and wild irises, newts, tadpoles and young deer, red kites, nesting ravens and even hoopoes
- ◇ the chance to share/buy more locally produced food or share plants and vegetables
- ◇ time to forage – from wild garlic for pesto to elderflowers for cordial, young nettles for soup and cleavers and alexanders for cooked vegetables
- ◇ the strong sense of community as neighbours have stepped in to help others who have been shielding or unable to get food and medicine
- ◇ how much more careful they have been to use all the food they have and to throw away as little as possible, as well as to get in the car as little as possible, avoiding unnecessary journeys

Most of us have probably experienced some of these highlights before lock down but we have seldom had the opportunity (or good weather) to see these together.

Based on these experiences, would you like to see any changes within the parish and how would you like the Parish Council to support that change?

Examples might be that you would like to see cycling encouraged with local road closures, or improved public transport to encourage less driving... or a tool sharing group established at one of the village halls... or you would like to start a lift-sharing scheme? Or maybe no changes?

Please let us know: email us at: [ideas@charvalley.org](mailto:ideas@charvalley.org)

or write to: The Editor, Char Chat, Quarry Gate, Loves Lane, Morcombelake, Bridport DT6 6DZ

## Lifelines

A new community initiative called Lifelines has just been launched to promote wildlife corridors in the Char Valley and surrounding areas. The project is being coordinated by a small team of local residents who want to strengthen the health and resilience of wildlife and soil in the area by encouraging the creation of pesticide-free corridors. They hope to involve as many residents as possible - whether they have an allotment, a small garden, a farm or a large estate.



The project has at its heart an interactive map which highlights in bright green areas of land where chemical pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) are not being used. Local residents who are willing to commit to managing their plot without pesticides are invited to join the scheme via the website and or to contact the project coordinator directly at [owenjohnaday@gmail.com](mailto:owenjohnaday@gmail.com). Farmers who are not organic can join the scheme by including parts of their land, such as field margins, hedges or woodlands, where no pesticides are used.

[The Lifelines Project have asked for parish council approval and this will be discussed at the July CVPC meeting]

## Our neighbourhood

Each of us has an individual lifestyle but we all live in the same area and share the same services and facilities. Here are some personal articles from younger residents expressing their thoughts and views.

### The bridleways

There's nothing better than being able to get out and ride through the rolling fields of Dorset – we are so lucky with the number of bridleways we have. Most horses love a hack, it's a time they can have some freedom, a time to let their manes down and be a horse again. Networks of bridleways in the vale allow for this, some well cared for and some not. They let us appreciate the natural outstanding beauty of the area and most people love to see horses out and about.

Riders are often safer on the paths than on the roads, especially in summer when holidaymakers and farm contractors fly around the lanes, so you get out the way quickly to avoid mentally scarring your horse from a traumatic experience. Having a vehicle speed around a corner and your horse bolting is never pleasant. No matter how well trained an animal is they will still have some reaction to something that is frightening or potentially going to injure them.

But, it's always a shame when you get to a favourite field, to find it's been ploughed, and no headland has been left to ride round. You have to divert or risk losing a shoe or injuring your horse. It's so disheartening to lose a favourite ride and sad for the horses. When you get to the field you usually canter in, their ears prick up and their pace increases. You can feel them get excited but when you turn them away, you feel them hesitate and know they are disappointed just like you are.

But the real shame is to the landowners who disrupt the bridleways, as riders notice things others miss, like the birds singing, the fawn asleep under the hedge or the farmer's livestock in difficulty. Like the ram on its back, the ewe that has prolapsed, or that pile of after-birth which is actually a suffocating new-born lamb.

On the bridle paths many riders act as a second pair of eyes over the animals and are wise to what's happening around them. Many times, I have tidied the horses up to run across a field to help livestock. This deed goes unnoticed, much like the ploughing and blocking of the bridleways.



Local authorities are usually very good at maintaining the bridleways. I've called about a fallen tree and it has been cleared within the week. But when it comes to ploughing the headlands and electric fencing blocking the route, reactions are slower and often too late.

It does frustrate me, but why would landowners worry about the public right of way when they have a bottom line to watch and many think 'all they do is tread up the fields and have no purpose in agriculture anymore'.

We forget that for many generations it was the horses that worked the land, carried us and our belongings around and had the nation resting on their shoulders. They worked with us for centuries and now they can't always have their canter through their favourite field. Can't have wind in their manes. I think we should continue to care for them and allow them their freedom. You never know we may need them again one day. So best keep them happy for now!

My grandad tells me his adventures with his horse on the local bridleways. He was known for being fearless on his horse and explored the bridleways for miles around. My love of horses and adventure comes from him. And we can share our love for this land through the bridleways.

He can tell me one of his stories and I will know exactly where it happened and I can share my experiences whilst on that bridleway too. The bridleways let us ride without the worry of traffic or cyclists. They let us see things others would miss from the car window. I love the bridleways in this area, and I am always happy to see them being looked after and maintained. My only wish is that there was more of them!



## My garden

It was an early midsummer morning and the sun was creeping up behind the trees, casting dappled drops of a honey coloured glow smothering the grass. The blue sky was like a line of baby blue bed sheets as I stared up at the blue sky. I laid on a mat gazing up at the rich green canopy, birds of all kinds shared their song as they dived past me. Glancing up at the old bird box I noticed a small baby blue tit peer out of the hole to gaze at the world of my wonderful garden. I closed my eyes and breathed in the fresh summer air a warm breeze danced in my hair as if it was playing. A plum

pink, peachy orange and a cherry red sunset cloaked the dusky night sky. The lemon coloured hues of the summer sun dripped behind the towering tall hills.

The summer night's breeze leaped into my lungs. Wrapping my shawl tightly around me I pulled myself up from the mat. With each step came a CRUNCH from the frosty grasses. A fox cried like a cackling witch from the nearby field, mice scurried under my sandals, a badger bustled past. Jumping to each stepping stone I crossed the glimmering river. I sat on a tree stump and as I listened to the song of the owl, I stared up at the full sphere of silver that watched down on me from the pocket-sized star scattered velvety sky.

author: Kitty Arscott

## The Enchanted Wood

As soon as I stepped through the old mossy gate into the lush green woods, I knew an adventure would be in store for me. It was as if the trees were generating energy and I was feeding off it! I ran under the canopy, jumping in piles of leaves and picking beautiful wild flowers with my mum by my side. I love the sunny days and cool breeze. All around us music ... the squeak of a squirrel and the screech of a bird echoed through my jungle, my special place.

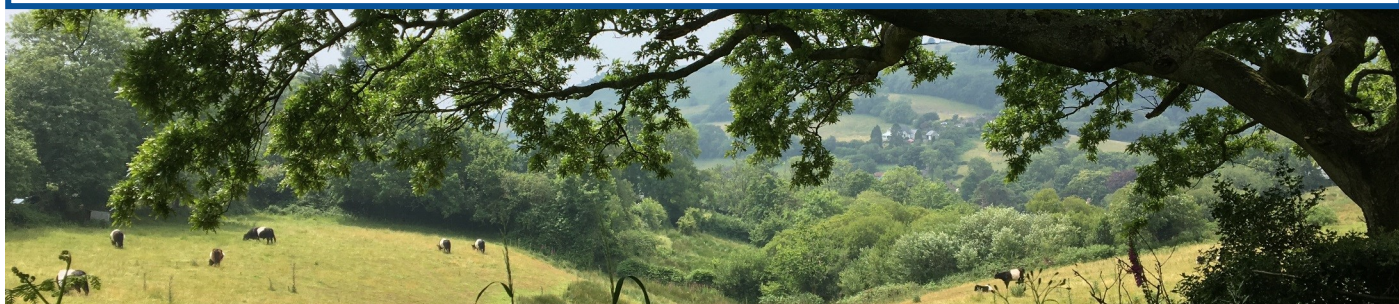
Up ahead a tree with all sorts of branches and knobbly bits stood tall and proud; an ancient warrior of the forest. I jumped at the chance to climb it, so with the excitement of a squirrel anticipating a nut I placed my hand on a particularly strong branch and pulled myself up. Soon I was half way up, the trees this high were

swaying magically. Turning around I saw how high I was. Quickly, I scrambled down the twisted tree but as I did I heard a flutter of wings and some small voices.

Back down on the ground I was puzzled, could I have heard a fairy behind me? Anyway, get on with the walk I told myself. Hand in hand with mum I walked deeper into the woods. A robin flew by, his chest as red as a holly berry in a snowy scene, probably on his way back to his hungry chicks and a warm nest. Suddenly a grey rabbit with soft silky fur hurtled past. He stopped and looked up; his black beadlike eyes glared warningly up at us.

It was getting dark and the sky above looked like an abyss of exploding colours: oranges, purples and reds! Half a setting sun beamed down on us; rays of warmth projected on our faces.

author: Charlotte Arscott



## Request for articles

What do you do? Do you work locally? Do you commute? Do you go to school or college? Do you provide holiday accommodation? Are you retired? Are you a carer? What does your day or week or year look like? What local facilities and services do you use or avoid? Let us know—contact Annette, our clerk, if you'd be willing to share something about your life or interests here in Char Valley.

Generally, we like to name our authors but we can publish anonymously too—as long as the contents are verified and meet our editorial guidelines.

## FIVE BELLS INN, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM

The Five Bells Inn is the only remaining pub left in the Char Valley Parish. It was originally an old thatched building with a stable attached. An arsonist set fire to the thatch on 5th November 1905 and it burnt to the ground.

Several other buildings in the area were also torched around that time but the perpetrator was never caught. The publicans managed to get the horses to safety and save a few pieces of furniture. It was necessary for them to camp out in a nearby stable to continue running the business before a new inn was built in 1906.



The publicans at the time of the fire were Albert and Bessie Smith. They still have some descendants living in Char Valley area. The names of the landlords of the Five Bells can be traced back to 1847 but obviously the pub goes back a lot further than that.



The aerial photo (dated in the late 1960s) shows that the Leggs were living opposite at Belvedere and were running a petrol station and had a very large vegetable garden. Peal House now stands on the site of this garden.

Next to the pub can be seen a pound (for keeping straying animals safe in the past until the owner came to collect them). With other vegetable gardens in the photo it can be seen that it was very important for villagers to 'grow their own'.

A regular to the pub in the 1950s and 1960s was Charlie Wills. He was a famous local folk singer who recorded for the BBC. He has dozens of descendants still living in the area.

Over the years the Five Bells has seen many interesting events but one major one was in 1980 when the church was celebrating being over a thousand years old and everyone dressed appropriately for the occasion.



The current landlady, Pat Hawkins, will be celebrating her 23rd anniversary at the helm in August this year. Long may she continue.



## MEADOWS

Most of us are aware of the value of tree-planting as a way of reducing carbon emissions and there are plenty of initiatives to encourage us to plant trees on our land.

There may be some anxiety about this because the beauty of our local landscapes depends very largely on their open character. Are we being asked to smother the entire countryside in a sea of trees, changing its character drastically in the process?

Fortunately, we now know that there are other types of land which are equally good at sequestering carbon\*.

These include permanent grassland, a major component of our local landscape.

### Not all green fields are the same

Looking out across the countryside we see fields of many types. Arable fields, of course, are ploughed for crops while meadows produce food for animals by direct grazing or production of hay and silage as winter fodder.

At most times of year, all meadows look uniformly green at a distance but seen close up it is easy to tell the different types apart. 'Leys' are ploughed up every few years and re-seeded, often with a single type of grass, and perhaps some clover. Every time the field is ploughed, carbon is released into the atmosphere.

Permanent grasslands are never ploughed and may contain as many as 45 different types of plant in a single square metre\*\*. A few are still traditionally managed for hay. These are spectacular in flower and produce vast amounts of pollen and nectar for pollinating insects, as well as providing a varied and healthy diet for the animals. Each field is different and changes as the season goes on.

This type of meadow is now very rare.

### Hayfield management

In traditionally managed hayfields, the grass is left to grow, usually until at least late July, and then cut for hay. The timing of the cut for each field is a matter of precise judgement. It will be different from year to year and from place to place, depending on the weather. Once cut, the grass is turned and left to dry before being baled and stacked for winter fodder (do you remember haystacks?). Shortly after cutting, sheep

or cattle are turned out to graze the new growth ('aftergrass' or 'aftermath') and fertilise the soil with their droppings. Where this regime has been maintained for a long period, a delicate balance is achieved for year after year, producing nutritious fodder without the use of chemical fertilisers.

### Management for silage

Nowadays most meadows are managed to produce silage, rather than hay. Silage production is quite a complex process\*\*\*. The grass is cut while still green and pressed down to ferment, without oxygen, in bales, clamps or silos. (Bales are the black plastic rolls you see in the fields; clamps are black plastic mounds weighted down with tyres; silos are storage tanks above or below ground).

Bales are wrapped in plastic to keep the air out. Often, fields are cut several times a year never allowing the plants to flower and set seed. Variety and nutritional value are gradually lost and after a few years the soil tends to become exhausted so fertilisers are needed.

This method is popular because cutting does not have to wait for a period of dry weather and more fodder is produced per acre. So, in the short term it is an obvious winner.



*An old meadow in Whitchurch Canonichorum*

### An alternative

At least one local farmer is now finding that by returning to traditional methods, profits can be maintained. There is no need to buy chemical fertilisers, or buy and dispose of plastic; the workload is reduced, and the animals benefit from a more nutritious mixed diet.

...continued

## MEADOWS...ctd

### The local picture

Here in Char Valley, we still have a number of undisturbed hayfields, many of which can be seen from public footpaths, and new ones have recently been created or recreated with encouragement from Dorset Wildlife Trust, under a scheme called "Pastures New".



*Part of a restored meadow in Morcombelake*

### New or restored meadows

In Whitchurch, new owners left a large lawn uncut until late in the season revealing a rich mix of wildflowers which has now been successfully managed as a hay meadow for several years.

At Hogchester Farm, two large fields have recently been converted into wildflower meadows. Following an initial survey which found pernicious weeds and over-dominant grasses, the owners decided to start from scratch. Both fields were treated, harrowed to produce a fine tilth and reseeded, one with seed collected from two local sites, and the other with a

commercial wildflower mix.

The fields are managed traditionally with a hay cut in late July followed by aftermath grazing over the winter and early spring.

This year and last, the results have been spectacular for both flowers and wildlife. There are, for instance, over a million Oxeye daisies providing nectar for pollinating insects. These meadows will continue to diversify and develop over time with each species finding its natural time and place to flower and dominate the landscape.

The meadows at Hogchester are open to the public each year during the flowering season (May June July) Full details on the website [www.hogchester.com](http://www.hogchester.com)

### Visiting wildflower meadows

It is well worth while seeking out the wildflower meadows in the local area during the flowering season.

If you have not seen one before, you will be amazed.

There are still a few weeks to go before the hay meadows are cut, so do go out and see what you can find (remembering, of course, to keep to public footpaths and observe the country code).

### References

\*<https://www.earth.com> 'Trees versus Grass'.

\*\*[rspb.org.uk/managing-habitats-for-wildlife-haymeadows](http://rspb.org.uk/managing-habitats-for-wildlife-haymeadows)

\*\*\* <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BRP-Making-grass-silage-for-better-returns-manual-5-160915.pdf>



*A new meadow at Hogchester Farm*



## CVPC Updates

### UPDATE: Countryside Code

In light of recent events and ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19, Natural England has updated the Countryside Code. It now includes 'don't have BBQs or fires' as well as 'check what facilities are open' and 'obey social distancing measures'. Whether you're enjoying our countryside as a walker, cyclist or horse rider, please follow the Countryside Code in order to respect others and protect our natural environment...and have a BBQ at home.



**With the phased re-opening of the hospitality sector PLEASE ensure this message is passed to your guests and visitors**

### Morcombelake Western Pedestrian Crossing on A35—now operational

After many years of campaigning and pressure, Morcombelake finally has a new controlled pedestrian crossing at the west end of the village. This is wonderful news and hopefully will lead to more traffic calming and safety measures through the village.

### Whitchurch, Morcombelake & Ryall annual Flower and Dog Show 2020 —CANCELLED

"The flower show committee have decided to cancel this year's flower and dog show. Safety was our main priority, to keep the public safe, but unfortunately at present we thought this wasn't possible to achieve. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 show." Many Thanks, Caroline House, Show secretary

### New Parish Councillor

We extend a warm welcome to Joanne Jones who has stepped forward to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor to represent Wootton Fitzpaine. Jo has joined the Council at a challenging time as we adapt to the consequences of Covid-19, the impact of Brexit, and the effects of climate change on our way of life.

### Verges

Dorset Council have continued to operate certain services, including cutting verges. Wherever possible, we are monitoring this to ensure that the cutting follows agreed procedures and timings for maintenance of wild life, as well as maintaining sight lines and road widths for the safety for road users.

If you see activity which appears to be outside the agreed procedures, please contact us.

It is disappointing to have to say this but: **Please do not abuse public servants.**

### Local Transport

The pandemic has severely disrupted our local public transport services. Across the country, Rail and Bus operators are struggling to survive and the Government are examining ways to rescue many services. Locally, we remain active with fellow Parish Councils to find solutions.

### Parish Council Activities

Our Parish Council continues to operate using digital forums and following national guidelines for public organisations. If you have any concerns, issues, etc, please continue to contact us.





Thank you to all the residents and friends of Char Valley. You've worked hard, and continue to work hard to help the community survive the COVID-19 pandemic and you have taken responsibility to do what you can to help others and protect lives.

Its not over yet, and, as the country opens up slowly, the risks will still be there so we should continue to demonstrate the care and alertness that has characterised our local response so far.

Our community has shown great strength and resilience, and willingness to embrace (socially distanced, of course) our neighbours and their needs.

This has been a wonderful response—greatly appreciated by everyone.

*Char Valley Parish Council*

## COVID Support

The seven CVPC Help Contacts remain in place to help anyone who may still need help or finds themselves in a self- isolation position due to the Contact and Trace system. Please contact our clerk below who will be able to give you details of your nearest contact:

Annette Marks

01308 459268

E: [charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)