

Community News

October 2026



Childs Ercall: The Summer we all nearly roasted



If you felt that this summer in Childs Ercall was less “pleasantly warm” and more “living inside a slow cooker,” you weren’t alone. At one point, the village green was so hot that several dogs refused to walk on it without union representation, and one resident reported that her flip-flops had fused permanently to the pavement. But while the rest of us were indoors negotiating with electric fans and Googling “Can a human safely nap in the fridge?”, our local farmers were out there — every single day,

seven days a week — doing what they always do: keeping the parish going. These legends didn’t just show up; they showed up in heat that made the cows consider emigrating. They battled cracked ground, thirsty crops, machinery that got hotter than a July barbecue, and the occasional sheep that simply refused to move because “it’s too warm to be a sheep today.” Yet still they carried on. You’d see them at dawn, already working while the rest of us were still deciding whether it was too hot to get dressed. You’d see them at dusk, finishing the day while the sun continued its personal vendetta against Shropshire. And you’d see them at midday, somehow still upright, still cheerful, still doing the work that keeps our fields, our food, and our community thriving. So, here’s to them — the sun-baked, dust-covered, heat-defying heroes of the parish of Childs Ercall. The ones who didn’t get to hide in the shade. The ones who didn’t get to complain about the weather (well, not as much as the rest of us). The ones who kept going because that’s what they do. Next time you pass a farmer, give them a nod, a smile, or perhaps a cold drink. They’ve earned it. And possibly a medal. And maybe a new hat. Because while the rest of us melted, they muscled through the hot parish summer, and they did it for all of us.

Another big shout at goes to our ever enthusiastic **Ercall Gardeners**, who ensured that the blooms were kept blooming throughout the hot spell.

In and around....

Childs Ercall Village Horse, Dog & Horticultural Show 2026

The annual Childs Ercall Village Horse, Dog and Horticultural Show trotted, wagged and bloomed its way to success once more, and what a day it was. It raised just shy of £3,700 for the church. What a fantastic result.

After a slightly ignominious start, the weather decided to behave itself. The horses, magnificent as ever, performed with admirable grace, whilst their riders managed to look composed even when their mounts had creative ideas of their own. The dogs, meanwhile, were in peak condition. Tails wagged with such enthusiasm that several were nearly classified as wind turbines, and the champion sausage catchers displayed athletic prowess that would put Olympic sprinters to shame.

The horticultural entries were equally impressive, with flowers, vegetables and lovingly nurtured plants showing off like divas at a garden-themed fashion show. And of course, the ever-popular beer tent was well frequented throughout the day, purely for hydration purposes of course! Most importantly, a good time was had by all, from the smallest spectators to the tallest horses. None of this happens by magic. A huge shout-out goes to **Claire Clifton** and her long-suffering husband, Richard. Claire once again masterminded the event with the calm determination of someone who has seen it all and still returns smiling. She was ably assisted by Judy Warrilow; the entire Keen family; John Haselgrave, head chef at the barbecue; and Judy and Andy Scott, who provided the marquee and have now very kindly donated it to the show. Together with many other volunteers, who gave their time, energy and good humour to make the show a roaring success. The show doesn't simply appear each year like a well-trained pony. It takes months of voluntary work, meetings, phone calls, and the sort of organisational stamina usually reserved for military operations. And while the current team is brilliant, they need more hands to help make the 2027 show just as spectacular. If you can spare time, ideas, enthusiasm, or the ability to hold a clipboard with authority, please get in touch with Claire. The village will thank you, the show will thrive, and you may even get first dibs at the beer tent.

A message from James (Chair, Childs Ercall Parish Council)



As we move into the autumn and winter months, we are mindful that our parish roads can be more heavily affected by adverse weather conditions. Increased rainfall, falling temperatures and freezing conditions can all contribute to potholes, drainage issues and deterioration of road surfaces. If you notice any highway defects, including potholes, blocked drains, flooding or damaged signage, please report them directly through **Fix My Street** (www.fixmystreet.com).

Reports are sent to the relevant authority and help ensure that issues are logged and prioritised for inspection and repair. If an issue is not resolved promptly, please consider escalating the matter through the Parish Council or by contacting our Unitary Councillor, Neil Bentley, so that concerns can be followed up on your behalf. Thank you for helping to keep Childs Ercall safe and well maintained. **Safe driving.**

An on-line version of this newsletter can be found on the website. (www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk)
Roger Griffin, Councillor, Childs Ercall Parish Council, email: cllr.griffin@childsercall-pc.gov.uk