



**WITLEY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

# U P D A T E

**January 2009**

**Issue Eleven**

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Happy New Year!

We are looking forward at the Parish Council, and have pledged to support many of our local voluntary services in the 2009/10 Financial Year.

These include The Clockhouse Day Centre at Milford, who are now proposing to purchase a new bus. They are raising funds from organised events and donations from neighbouring Parish Councils. This facility is a lifeline to many of our senior citizens and well worth supporting. Please remember that this facility is open to anyone in the area over 50 years of age who would like to drop in for lunch or participate in the activities available.

The Village Halls have also asked for financial assistance so we are contributing towards refurbishments and repairs at all

three – Chichester Hall, Pirrie Hall and Milford Village Hall.

Lastly, we are supporting the Citizens Advice Bureau Mobile Unit with a contribution towards their running costs. This facility is well used in our Parish and unfortunately in the current economic climate will be even more vital. If you need further information on CAB, please

see our article in this newsletter on benefits waiting to be claimed.

We are also supporting our children this year and are making enquiries of the relevant bodies regarding the lack of school places within our Parish. We have some planned meetings in January and will keep you updated on progress through our next Newsletter and on our Website.

**[www.witley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk)**

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So we have a busy year ahead working on many projects and I would like to thank my fellow

Councillors who give hours/days of their time free of charge to make this Parish a better place to live.

*Maxine Gale, Chairman, Witley Parish Council*

## **BITS AND PIECES – NEW PROJECTS AND OLD HEDGES**

**Since the last newsletter, the Sunnyhill Working Party, comprised of members from the Parish Council and the Residents Support Group, have continued to work with potential donors to raise a substantial sum of money for new play equipment for the Sunnyhill Play area. The aim is not only to renew the play items for toddlers, but also get some new equipment for older children. We hope to have news of progress soon.**

**The new allotments project at Sandy Lane/Haslemere Road in Milford is progressing. The allotments will be organic and we are looking at developing the area over a period of time, depending on costs and grant options. We have plenty of potential allotment holders already on a waiting list.**

### **A message from Surrey County Council Highways about hedges and ditches.**

Where private hedges are causing any obstruction to the highway landowners are reminded that they have a duty of care to maintain them. This also applies to ditches which run through private land – they must be kept clear so that water may flow freely at both ends. Highways can enforce these requirements legally if necessary but it doesn't need to come to that. We'll have more details in the next newsletter.



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES

Three years ago Witley Parish Council took up the challenge to provide an event that would involve all age groups and everyone in the community would enjoy. The support the Council receives from other local organisations is proof enough that this is an all village event. Whilst the Council pay for the trees and lights and the support costs for the outside part of the event, **we are grateful to the local traders who fund the costs of the food and drink.**

The weather at last gave the residents of **Brook and Sandhills** a dry evening for the annual switch on of their Christmas tree lights. 168 people turned out at the Pirrie Hall to sing carols and enjoy a glass of mulled wine which was supplied by the Dog and Pheasant, sausage rolls and mince pies.

At **Milford, local resident Penelope Keith**, with the help of the children, counted down from ten and the tree was lit to great applause. Carols were sung and



Father Michael Perry and Rev. Clive Potter said a prayer of blessing for the village and the Christmas tree. The carol singing

was followed by refreshments in the village hall. These soon disappeared as a crowd of about 350 people enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies.

At **Witley** around 125 residents from the village watched as Maxine Gale, Chairman of Witley Parish Council, assisted by Harry Connors aged five, turned the lights on. Harry is the fifth generation of a Witley family which moved to the village in 1920. Maxine and Harry were joined by the All Saints Junior Choir in a count down and the tree is now beautifully lit. Rev. Brian Shand said a prayer and blessed the tree and village. The refreshments

were served in Chichester Hall by the Witley Guides and members of Witley Parish Council.

*Catherine Maxwell-Miles, Chairman, Christmas Lights Working Party*



## Benefits waiting to be claimed

**In the current economic climate** we are sure that many of our residents young and old are wondering where they can get help and advice. Even in the good times there is always a need for the services of agencies such as Age Concern and Citizens Advice Bureau both of which provide an invaluable service to the community.

'Don't miss out, claim your benefits now' this is the clear message **Age Concern Surrey** is sending out to pensioners as a huge amount of benefits are unclaimed. They offer **Benefit**

**Checks** to help older people boost their income by claiming the benefits to which they are entitled. The extra money generated can make a real difference to people's lives. For example enabling an elderly person to continue living safely in their own home. The forms do seem daunting but both agencies provide help, if necessary, to fill them out. It really does save the taxpayer money in the long run as help provided can prevent a nasty fall resulting in a fracture and

hospitalisation. So please encourage elderly neighbours, friends and family to have a **Benefit Check** if you think it at all possible that they might qualify.

**Age Concern Surrey also provide an Advocacy Service and a Home Help Service.**

The former can help elderly people write letters, fill in forms, make telephone calls for them or attend meetings with them or on their behalf. The advocates are volunteers who have been specially trained.

**Age Concern Waverley** promote the welfare of older people

and their main activities focus on practical help. The three main services are 'Information & Advice', 'Handyman' and 'Gardener Introductory Service'.

**Citizens Advice Waverley** deal with a wide range of issues such as **Benefits, Housing, Debt and Employment.** The service is available to everyone and it is independent, free, confidential and impartial. They operate a telephone advice line and drop-in services in Cranleigh, Farnham, Godalming and

**Don't miss out, claim your benefits now**

Haslemere including some late evening sessions. A mobile service visits Milford Village Hall car park 10am-12 noon and Witley outside the Star 1pm-3pm every Tuesday.

Finally both of these organisations could do more if further funds were available and more volunteers were forthcoming. So do please

consider donating your time and/or your money as both would be particularly welcome at the current time.

**Age Concern Waverley**  
**01483 548812**

**Age Concern Surrey**  
**01483 446627**

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
**0844 848 7969**

## CYCLING TO HEALTH

When the survey was done for the Witley Parish Plan, which was published at the end of 2006, it was noted that 18% of households had at least one person who cycled regularly. However a much larger percentage expressed opinions on routes and parking for cycles and this suggested to the steering group that if facilities for cyclists were improved more people would cycle.

Witley Parish Council has risen to the challenge and is looking at various options to improve the current situation. In particular we are looking at the provision of cycle racks in the Parish, which at present are almost non-existent, and we now have a representative on the Waverley Cycling Forum. This meets quarterly, and we would welcome any ideas or

questions you have to take forward to the forum.

We are very pleased to announce that, following our discussion with Secretts, they plan to provide cycle racks at both the farm shop and the garden centre. A flagpole at the garden centre was recently being used to secure cycles so we are sure proper racks will be welcome. In addition Secretts have kindly given Witley Parish Council some metal poles, which can be recycled as racks, to place at Milford Heath.

Waverley Borough Council Officers have produced a parking strategy which, if ratified by the council, will seek to increase and improve parking for bicycles. This would include installing secure cycle stands in their car parks where a need can

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be demonstrated. We have suggested that the Milford Crossroads car park would be a suitable venue. This would benefit visitors to the parade of shops and the GP's surgery.

Finally, Surrey County Council has produced some excellent cycling maps which are free to residents. They can be obtained by telephoning **08456 009 009**.

*Councillor Myra Newnes-Smith*

## Witley Parish Councillors

### Milford Ward

Mrs Joy Hicks .....	<b>01483 427488</b>
Mrs Rosie Lander .....	<b>01428 683765</b>
Mrs Catherine Maxwell-Miles .....	<b>01483 429311</b>
<i>(Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee)</i>	
Mrs Myra Newnes-Smith .....	<b>01483 423001</b>
Mrs Joy Nye .....	<b>01483 414618</b>
Mrs Cynthia Perkins .....	<b>01428 683066</b>
<i>(Lead member for Enton)</i>	

### Witley Ward East

Mrs Christy Crouch .....	<b>01428 682181</b>
Mr Claudio Del Giudice .....	<b>01428 682888</b>
<i>(Lead member for Wormley)</i>	
Miss Maxine Gale .....	<b>01428 683055</b>
<i>(Chairman)</i>	
Mrs Julie Grist .....	<b>01428 683448</b>
<i>(Chairman, Amenities and Environment Committee)</i>	
Mr Nick Holder .....	<b>01428 682402</b>
<i>(Lead member for Brook)</i>	
Mr Jack Lee .....	<b>01428 684853</b>

Mr Tony Longrigg .....	<b>01428 684925</b>
Mr Nas Kuchimanchi .....	<b>01483 527956</b>

### **Witley Ward West**

Mr Stephen Dale .....	<b>01428 681356</b>
<i>(Vice-Chairman; Chairman, Planning Committee)</i>	

## **Your County and Borough Councillors**

### **Surrey**

CLlr Peter Martin .....	<b>01483 426064</b>
<i>(Godalming South, Milford and Witley)</i>	
CLlr David Harmer .....	<b>01483 609792</b>
<i>(Waverley Western Villages)</i>	

### **Waverley**

CLlr John Sandy ( <i>Milford</i> ) .....	<b>01483 429910</b>
CLlr Keith Webster ( <i>Milford</i> ) .....	<b>01428 644332</b>
CLlr Elizabeth Cable ( <i>Witley and Hambledon</i> ) .....	<b>01428 682640</b>
CLlr Adam Taylor-Smith ( <i>Witley and Hambledon</i> ) ..	<b>01428 681783</b>
CLlr Nick Holder .....	<b>01428 682402</b>
<i>(Elstead, Thursley and Brook)</i>	
CLlr Bryn Morgan .....	<b>01252 790048</b>
<i>(Elstead, Thursley and Brook)</i>	

## **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor for the Milford area**

If you are a resident of the Parish of Witley (incorporating Brook, Milford, Enton, Wormley, Upper & Lower Birtley and Witley) and wish to be considered for the co-option, please contact the Council Office for an application form or for further details concerning this voluntary vacancy.

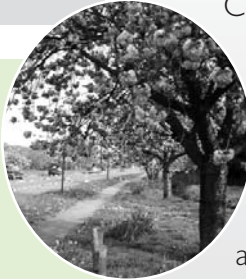
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday, 21st April, 2009

Venue to be confirmed

### Spring walk A Sunday in May. Date to be confirmed.

Details will be on the notice boards nearer the time



### The Circus comes to Jubilee Field, Milford

26th April –  
29th April  
2009

21st May –  
25th May  
2009



### Council Meetings

Meetings of the Full

Council are held in the Burton Pavilion, Milford Heath Road, Milford at 8.00pm on the last Thursday of each month except August and December.

Meetings are open to the public.

The building is accessible for people with mobility problems.

Residents wishing to raise any matter with the Council are asked to notify the Council office at least 5 days prior to the meeting.



## Where to find us

Council Office, Milford Village Hall, Portsmouth Road  
Milford, GU8 5DS

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm.

**Tel: 01483 422044** Email: [clerk@Witley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@Witley-pc.gov.uk)

[asst.clerk@Witley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asst.clerk@Witley-pc.gov.uk) **Web: [www.witley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk)**

