

Cholsey Village Voice Jan 2016

Welcome and Happy New Year!

Welcome to Cholsey Village Voice (CVV), the monthly newsletter from the Parish Council. The newsletter is available free from most shops and pubs, The Pavilion foyer, the library and The Great Hall. CVV can also be read on the Parish Council website in the News and Events section. If you have any short, topical articles that we could publish, please forward them to cholseypc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk

Cholsey Children's Centre

Mark Gray writes:

As a result of my work with children's centres in other communities over the past eighteen months I started to wonder why our village doesn't have one. I have been trying to persuade communities, led by their parish or town councils, to take on the running of these centres once the funding from the County Council goes.

After some discussion at our Parish Council we have decided to fund a small scale Children's Centre in the village, employing staff for around thirty hours per week.

The aim of the centre will be to work with other agencies to support families with young children through a variety of activities. These will include "stay and play" sessions, work on diet/nutrition and physical activity sessions such as buggy walks. The centre will be based in The Pavilion and a small committee has been formed to oversee the new venture.

Congratulations, Val Bolt, Medallist of the Order of the British Empire!



Huge congratulations to Val Bolt who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

Val has contributed immensely to village life over many years with her work as a stalwart member of Cholsey's Community Association, Cholsey 1000 Plus, for many years; Val is also a Parish Councillor, an active member of the Horticultural Society, a

member of CHOKO, helps to run CHIPS the holiday play scheme, and in the past has been actively involved with Scouts and the Youth Club. In her working life, she is also involved with the Primary School, St. Mary's Church, and the Day Centre for older people.

Although Val contributes more to community life in Cholsey than almost anyone else, she is always unassuming, and never wishes to take credit for what has been achieved except as part of the team effort.

Dog Fouling!

At this time of the year we usually see an increase in the amount of fouling, largely due to the fact that many people walk their dogs after dark.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO FOUL THE PARKS AND STREETS OF OUR VILLAGE.

Illuminated tags can be purchased from Ebay, Amazon and other internet providers from £1 – this can be fixed to your dog's collar so that you can see when it remains stationary for a period of time.

Defibrillator Update



The second of the Parish Council's defibrillators has been installed in the centre of the village on the Ilges Lane side of Tesco Express. We are grateful to Tesco for covering the cost of the installation.

A second defibrillator is in the old telephone box on Papist Way and a third will be joining them in a site yet to be decided at Fair Mile.

Tips Reprieved - at least for now.....

County Councillor Mark Gray writes:

I understand that the Household Waste and Recycling Centres have been given a stay of execution, at least until 2017.

It is fairly obvious that the County Council was overwhelmed by the negative responses to its consultation, more than 3,000 people and institutions responded, mostly opposing the plans.

County Council Cuts Will Need To Be Worse Than Planned

The Government has cut £70 million from the County Council's budget. The authority had expected a cut of £50m.

Already the cuts included proposals to close children's centres, adult day centres, bus subsidies, removal of dial-a-ride and further cuts to highway spending.

OCC is currently unclear where further cuts can be made as there are only statutory services remaining. As your local County Councillor I find myself in a really difficult position as I do not feel I was elected to support the implementation of such swingeing cuts. However, the Council has to submit a balanced budget.

School Library - Can you help?

Cholsey School are looking for someone who could spare a couple of hours a week to help to run the School library – signing books in and out, organising books and possibly hearing children read. If you think you can help then please get in touch with the school office T: 651862 email office2596@cholsey.oxon.sch.uk

Bell Tower Open Day



St Mary's church is having a bell tower open day on Saturday 10th Jan from 11am to 5pm.

You will be able to see and hear the bells ringing and view the bells from the safety of the gantry.

If you are interested in becoming a bell ringer get in touch with Jenny Jeskins on 01491 651579.

Knowing Me

A free five week course to help you manage your life more positively to be run at Cholsey Pavilion by tutors from Abingdon and Witney College and Parish Council staff – starts Jan 15th 10 - 12:30 EVERYONE WELCOME. Call Sue Funge 07788 745903 or Phoebe Shephard 07554 103499. The Parish Council is hoping to be able to organise a crèche for those with little ones to look after.

Looking for something new in 2016?

Cholsey WI is looking for new members. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in the Pavilion. Annual Membership is £37.50. If you are interested in becoming part of this national organisation just go along to their next meeting on 27th January.

Take up the Cholsey Challenge

The original and biggest village quiz is back on Friday 29th January 7pm for 7:30pm in the Pavilion.

If you want to participate you need to pre-book your team by calling or emailing Estelle Browne on 202245 or estelle.browne@ntlworld.com

Tickets cost £7.50 per person and include a hot supper.

Cholsey's Big Christmas Saturday

Saturday 19th December was a fantastic and memorable pre Christmas day in the village. The day kicked off with Santa and his helpers touring the village including the tea shop, which later in the morning was thronged for a concert from Cholsey Community Choir, including a very jolly Pirates Carol. A collection for the new Cholsey Children's Centre raised over £100.

The day continued in the afternoon with a marvellous "Living Nativity" organised by St Mary's Church. The event involved several tableaux around the village, including The Forty, where the angel appeared to Mary, the shepherds were based at the mound in the park, Laurence Hall was the stable and the Pavilion was the site for the kings. Organisers report that an audience of some 300 people saw the event. Later in the day The Forty was the venue for the traditional carols organised by 1000+.

COPA–Cholsey Older Persons Advice New Number 07494 893997

COPA offers a community information service for older people, their families and carers. Every Saturday morning we aim to provide an opportunity to access a range of useful information and support in your locality. . Come along to the Pavilion, Station Rd between 10am and 12noon for a chat or call us on 07494 893997 for advice or to make an appointment.

New Trees in the Park

Cholsey is fortunate to have a rich and healthy stock of trees of a range of ages. As well as adding to the charm of our village, our trees also help soil retention and are a contribution to flood defence. Sarah Venners and Vicky Beardall recently organised the planting of approximately 100 saplings in the Recreation Ground.

These saplings are in anticipation of the aging trees in those areas of the Recreation Ground and the intention is that by the time the older trees come down, a number of these saplings will have become established, providing a continuous vista of mature trees of varied species.

We are very grateful to Sarah Venners and Vicky Beardall for acquiring these saplings and organising their planting.

Job Vacancy

Cholsey Children's Centre would like to employ a **TEAM LEADER** for the new centre in the village. The post will be for twelve hours per week and in addition to working with children and families will involve managing the two centre staff, devising a programme and ensuring safeguarding issues. **Salary £7,488** For an application pack, please call 01491 652255 or cholsepc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk

What's On

Saturdays Community Tea Shop – The Pavilion 10:00 – 12:30pm

Sat 10th Jan – St Marys Bell Tower open day 11-5pm.

Sun 11th Jan – The Red Lion - Quiz night in aid of Cholsey Skate Ramp - 7pm

Fri 15th Jan for 5 weeks – The Pavilion – Knowing Me – FREE course (see earlier article)

Fri 22nd Jan – Badgemore Park - Cholsey Golf Society

Wed 27th Jan – The Pavilion – WI – 7:30pm

Fri 29th Jan – The Pavilion – The Cholsey Challenge - the village's big annual quiz - 7pm.