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Charlton Village News



Charlton Village, Parish
Council updates... **Page 2-4**

A letter from **Revd Alex
Randle-Bissell... Page 5**

Quarterly Edition | December 2023

"Welcome to the magical world of winter wonderland, where snowflakes dance in the frosty air, and the spirit of the holiday season fills every corner. We are thrilled to bring you the latest edition of our Winter and Festive Village Newsletter, curated especially for our beloved community."



Top News!!

The Charlton Village Community Association (CVCA) is NOW formally launched, following its Annual General Meeting (AMG) on 10th October.

Here's just a few examples of what this NEW Association will be doing for us:

- Supporting and enhancing community life and the wellbeing of Charlton Village - generating community spirit.
- Acting as a sounding board and catalyst for current and future village activities.
- Helping to organise and run village or parish events, in collaboration with Charlton Parish Council and St Thomas' Church.

CVCA has a page on the Parish Council website - yes there is one! Where you will find Minutes, a copy of its constitution and latest information.

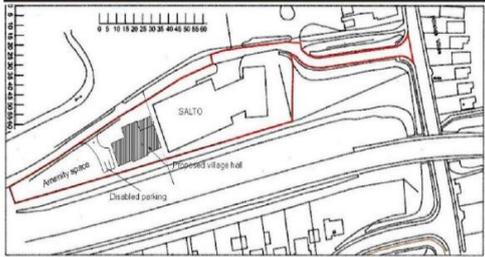
We're thrilled to share that we have **30 registered members**, which is a great starting point, and we have a Committee of 8 members who will do most of the business... however, it would be even greater to get our registered membership numbers up, to 3 figures at least - we do have roughly 900 households in Charlton and there is nothing wrong with ambition, right?!?

Going forward you will start to get more information about Charlton Village activity, clubs and planned events. If you wish to join, or have your say about future plans, there is still time. **Reach out to our Councillor Clive Ward via email, cliveward.cvca@gmail.com.**

Parish Council Updates

Village Community Hall

We've asked a few times over a number of years, and there is overwhelming support for a Village Hall – **more than 80% support was cited in the neighbourhood Plan**. Our 2021 Questionnaire re-affirmed support, and gave us broad views about what the Hall should deliver.



What did they tell us?

Capacity should be 80-100 seater plus a smaller meeting room, kitchen, coffee lounge, bar, mobile (not fixed)

stage and it should include eco-features such as solar panels, heat pumps and better than industry standard insulation.

Charlton would have a meeting and activity space that would also serve as an information and support hub. It would primarily cater for village needs with any spare capacity hired out to offset running costs. Possible uses: clubs and societies, parties, meeting place for residents of all ages including the elderly and youth.

As we get closer to committing money to hire a planning consultant/architect, **it is vital that we can show strong village support for this project**. This year we have engaged with a cross-section of residents at events and at the Parish Meeting in May. We have also circulated a Village Hall Leaflet... so you should all know what we are hoping to achieve.

We want this space to truly reflect the needs and desires of our vibrant community, which is why we kindly request your valuable input. We have prepared a short questionnaire to gather your thoughts, ideas, and preferences regarding the design, functionality, and potential activities to be held in the Village Community Hall.



LOCAL INFO

A list of useful telephone numbers

Playgroup – Gov Funding from 3yrs

Mon, Wed, Fri | 9am – 12:20pm
Tues, Thurs | 9am – 3pm
Contact: Mrs S Hartley
Telephone: 07979 841318

Brownie Guides (7 - 11yrs)

Tuesdays | 4pm – 5:30pm
Contact: Mrs K Ryder
Telephone: 01264 316907

Rainbow Guides (5 - 7yrs)

Thursdays | 4pm – 5:30pm
Contact: Mrs E Taylor
Telephone: 01264 394322

Keep Fit (all levels)

Thursdays | 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Contact: Mrs E Taylor
Telephone: 01264 394322

Slimming World (Andover Rugby Club)

Tuesdays | 7pm – 8:30pm
Contact: Kate Evans
Telephone: 07568 622189

Please complete our questionnaire...



You can either scan the QR code and complete on-line via your mobile phone, or you can complete the enclosed questionnaire and volunteers will call to collect before Christmas.

Your participation in this survey will play a vital role in creating a space that truly serves our community's needs. Your voice matters, so please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and share your vision for the new village community hall.

Charlton Village Community Association

Forecast of Events - December:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2nd at
12:30pm | Church Christmas Fayre 🎄 |
| 3rd at
5:30pm | Sunnyside Close - Christmas Lights It's the 'Official' switch-on... run by James Savior at no. 4 Sunnyside Close. The Mayor and Mayoress are invited. |
| Every
Wednesday
from 10am | Coffee Morning at the Royal Oak ☕ All proceeds go to Macmillan. (The last Wed of the month is busiest) |
| 11th - 15th
 | Charlton Christmas Lights Competition 2023 Best individual properties and best street/enclave. Find out more on page 7 |

2024... events to get involved in next year

More details coming soon.

- 16th March - St Patrick's Day Quiz evening
- 6th June - D Day 80 Commemoration
The Charlton Beacon will be lit as part of the national commemoration and we're looking to host an event around the Beacon from 6:30 -10pm, with a military/veteran theme. Commemoration leading to Beacon lighting at 9:15pm.
- 6th July - Charlton Village Community Day 24'
Time for Charlton Village to have fun and raise money for good causes.

Tree planting being carried out by volunteers

Work will begin **week commencing Monday, 4 December** as part of a project to improve bat foraging habitat, as part of the mitigation requirement to install flood lighting at the BMX track, Charlton.

***This work is expected to continue into the new year**

This will include the creation of protection fencing and planting of over 1000 trees at Charlton Lakes (area detailed in the image).

This work will see the site develop from close mown field to a quality habitat for wildlife, whilst maintaining access for site users. The map above details the areas to be planted including five scrubby tree blocks (red) and establishing chalk grassland habitat (green), as well as ten fruit trees to be used as a community orchard (purple).



Houses South of Goch Way

The proposed development of **9 houses south of Goch Way has been opposed by the Parish Council** on a number of grounds: There is no need for these houses as the Neighbourhood Plan had identified a site for 50 homes at the top of Peake Way; the houses encroached changing the environment and adversely affect Charlie's Lake and woodland, trees and natural habitat, home to many varieties of animal would be lost.

The applicant has now decided to withdraw this proposal and no further action will be taken on it. It is possible, however, that further applications will be submitted on this site and details of any such application will be given appropriate publicity in the usual way.



Traffic concerns

The big trucks using Charlton, particularly through the village centre and Hatherden Road, are increasing in number and roads and verges are being damaged. Some of this traffic comes from the Solar Farm development... but it has got worse because of the SO Recycling facility at Penton Sawmills.

We are still hopeful that SO Recycling will not get their Change of Use permission, and that the facility will close... **but there is no decision yet.** We will let you know as soon as we can.

Traffic Stats

The stats for October along the Hatherden Road are very similar to other months. The number of vehicles leaving the village are substantially higher than the number coming in. This supports the argument that Charlton is being used as a route to the A343 to Newbury and the North. *"Little we can do about this".*

Although... the average speeds are below 30mph. The number of vehicles going much higher than the speed limit is still high. These stats will be provided to the police, in that hope that they will have another speed enforcement campaign.

Residents beware!

	Number	Avg Speed	Max Speed
Vehicles into Village	41000	27	58
Vehicles out of Village	47000	28	89

Speeds Out of Village

≤ 40 Mph	: 46,429 - (98.75 %)
41 - 45 Mph	: 428 - (0.91 %)
46 - 50 Mph	: 99 - (0.21 %)
51 - 55 Mph	: 36 - (0.08 %)
56 - 60 Mph	: 22 - (0.05 %)
61 - 65 Mph	: 4 - (0.01 %)
66 - 70 Mph	: 0 - (0.00 %)
71 - 75 Mph (et +)	: 1 - (0.00 %)

Speeds into Village

≤ 40 Mph	: 41,040 - (99.38 %)
41 - 45 Mph	: 211 - (0.51 %)
46 - 50 Mph	: 36 - (0.09 %)
51 - 55 Mph	: 6 - (0.01 %)
56 - 60 Mph	: 3 - (0.01 %)
61 - 65 Mph	: 0 - (0.00 %)
66 - 70 Mph	: 0 - (0.00 %)
71 - 75 Mph (et +)	: 0 - (0.00 %)

WE MOVED TO CHARLTON 58 YEARS AGO, A NICE SMALL HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE, CLEAN FRESH COUNTRY AIR, VERY LITTLE TRAFFIC. NOT SO NOW, HUGE 12 WHEELED ARTICULATED HORRIES, MANY WITH SHIP CONTAINERS, MORE SUITED TO SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS, THAN NARROW VILLAGE ROADS AND A GREAT VOLUME OF CARS AND VANS. CLEAN FRESH COUNTRY AIR. I THINK NOT.

CHARLTON HAS BECOME THE TOWNS TRAFFIC HUB AND I FEAR FOR THE VERY EXISTANCE OF THE VILLAGE. FOR OVER 50 YEARS I HAVE FORTHAND CAMPAIGNED FOR CHARLTON TO MAINTAIN ITS INTEGRITY. IS THIS POSSIBLE? I THINK SO. BUT AND IT IS A BIG BUT IS THE VILLAGE APATHY. IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY A NICE ENVIRONMENT, HIGH PROPERTY VALUES ETC, TELL, WRITE TO THE COUNCILLORS, PLANERS, WE HAVE A NEW M.P. MAKE HIM AWARE. IT WAS A HARD FIGHT TO GET A PARISH COUNCIL FOR CHARLTON, IT IS YOUR VOICE, IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW.

A message from one of our residents...

Sometimes it's the simplest things that hold the greatest power. We wanted to take a moment to share with you a heartfelt hand-written letter from one of our beloved village residents.

In a world filled with digital interactions, this gesture of putting pen to paper is a beautiful reminder of the personal connection and warmth that can be conveyed through the written word. So, let's take a moment and immerse ourselves in the heartfelt thoughts and feelings that reach out from this ink-stained page.

Get in touch

We love hearing about how our residents, and supporters, want to make sure our village is well looked after. As suggested in these words... feel empowered to write, email, message via Facebook, or even pop along to the next Parish Council Meeting at the church, and share your thoughts – Your voice is invaluable to all that we do for our village and community, and our councillors (names and contact details found below) are on hand to support wherever they can.

Parish Council Meetings take place in Charlton Church Hall at 7.45pm, every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Except August and December. Agendas will be posted to the website and notice boards but can also be obtained by contacting The Parish Clerk, E Attwood 07534 336756, or by e-mail clerk@charltonvillage.org.uk. **Next meeting 17th Jan, then 21st Feb 2024.**

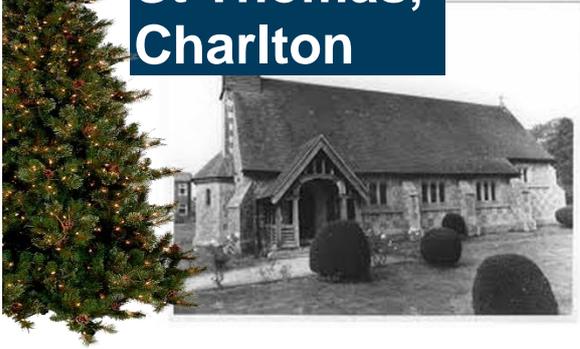
LIST OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chair	Jacqueline Smith	07938 561609	cllrsmith@charltonvillage.org.uk
Vice Chair	Clive Ward	07538 596344	cllrcward@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Ian Smale	07421 354874	cllrismale@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Phil Wylde	07775 852024	cllrpwylde@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Daniel Rawlingson		cllrdrawlingson@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Norman Woods		cllrnwoods@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Keith Wilson		cllrkwilson@charltonvillage.org.uk
	Vacancy x 2		
Clerk	Eveline Attwood	07534336756	clerk@charltonvillage.org.uk
Test Valley	Linda Lashbrook	07766 708 061	cllrlashbrook@testvalley.gov.uk
Hampshire County	Christopher Donnelly	07738 289858	Chris.Donnelly@hants.gov.uk

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT:

Emergency resilience planning	Cllr Ward	Planning	Cllrs Wylde, Smale
Speed watch	Cllrs Smale, Ward	Carters Meadow	Cllrs Smale
Traffic	Cllr Smith	Neighbourhood Plan	Cllrs Ward and Smith
Communication	Cllrs Smith and Ward	Book Exchange	Cllr Smale
Community Hall	Cllrs Ward and Wylde	Charlton Lakes	Cllr Ward
Environment	Cllr Wylde and Ward	Climate Change	Cllrs Ward and Smith
Footpaths & Rights of Way	Cllrs Wylde and Ward	Lengthsman	Clerk

St Thomas, Charlton



Revd Alex Randle-Bissell, Priest-In-Charge,
01264 512161 revalex@pastrowfamily.org.uk
Judith Appleby, Benefice Administrator, 07999
352585 admin@pastrowfamily.org.uk
Facebook: Family Matters In Our
villages@pastrow
Website: www.Pastrowfamily.Org.Uk or simply
scan the QR code with your smartphone.



SERVICES & EVENTS - ST THOMAS

Join us for breakfast, prayers or light refreshments and a chat, **all welcome!**

DECEMBER

- 2nd** | 9am Prayer Breakfast
3rd | 10am Pastrow Family Gathering – Christ Church Hatherden and 4 pm Said Holy Communion – St Thomas Charlton
8th | 1pm Cosy Café
10th | 10am Holy Communion
17th | 10am Christingle Service
20th | 7:30pm Carols around the Christmas Tree with Test Valley Brass
22nd | 1pm Cosy Café
24th | 10am Said Holy Communion – St Georges Enham, 3pm Crib Service, 5pm Carol Service, 11:30pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day | 10am Christmas Day Service
31st | 10am Holy Communion – St Thomas Charlton



JANUARY

- 6th** | 9am Prayer Breakfast
7th | 10am Pastrow Family Gathering – Christ Church Hatherden and 4pm Said Holy Communion – Holy Trinity Penton
12th | 1pm Cosy Café
14th | 10am Holy Communion and 3:30 pm Messy Church – St Thomas Charlton
21st | 10am Family Service
26th | 1pm Cosy Café
28th | 10am Holy Communion, 3:30 pm Play and Praise, and 6:30 pm Encounters with Jesus

FEBRUARY

- 3rd** | 9am Prayer Breakfast
4th | 10am Pastrow Family Gathering – Christ Church Hatherden and 4pm Said Holy Communion – St Georges Enham Alamein
9th | 1pm Cosy Café
11th | 10am Holy Communion
18th | 10am Family Service
23rd | 1pm Cosy Café
25th | 10am Holy Communion and 3.30pm Play and Praise, 6.30 pm Encounters with Jesus

Dear friends,

I wonder if you have experienced some joy this year as we come towards the end of it? Joy is a word that is seldom used in everyday conversation nowadays – we often describe ourselves as happy, content or even 'super'-excited, but we tend to avoid the word joy. Perhaps it is because of our national stereotypically reserved nature as the definition of joy is often noted as 'a feeling of great pleasure or deep delight caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying.' Maybe because we live at such

speed nowadays there is no real time to stand still and experience anything as deep as joy, or perhaps the ever-constant blare of negativity drowns out any possibility of connecting with ourselves at such a deep level. In any case, we can feasibly conclude that joy is something that needs to be sought out by ourselves and can only be experienced when we strive or choose to feel it, or that we are astute and receptive enough to recognize it when it embraces us, sometimes most unexpectedly. Joy is a great feeling!

It may be no surprise then, that joy is a word that is found throughout the books and stories of the Bible; in fact, I would go as far to say that it is an authority on the subject. For example, in the lesser-known book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament he says 'for the joy of the Lord is your strength', pointing the reader towards the notion that the more we recognize God's presence in our lives, our communities and the wider world, the more delight and peace we can potentially feel and hope for. The Christmas story teaches us so much about this in the songs we sing at our carol and crib services by examining the scriptures and learning about so many different people who journeyed towards the manger and found true joy. Whether it was Mary and Joseph, ordinary but faithful people who accepted the call of parenthood, or the lowly shepherds who found joy in being part of the story and were essentially the first evangelists as the gospels say they were so filled with joy they just couldn't help but go and tell everyone about what they had witnessed! And let us not forget the wise and learned Magi, who travelled a perilous journey to satisfy all the years of study and pondering and finally found that they could find peace and bow at the crib and worship in pure joy.

Friends, let us not forget this Christmas that in the midst of trouble and suffering, hope was born into the world that night in Bethlehem. Jesus was God's rescue plan that has resonated throughout the ages and is still with us today bring hope, peace and joy to billions of people. So, as we sing 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come' this Christmas, I wonder what that really means to you? I hope and pray that you find that real joy in knowing Jesus and the wonderful journey of faith he offers to us all.

Blessings and joy to you this Christmas.

Alex

Also look out for information on our upcoming **Alpha and Lent courses** in the new year. If you would like to join our mailing list for all the latest information, please email admin@pastrowfamily.org.uk

December...



December. As the days grow shorter and colder, our spirits are lifted by the promise of celebrations and togetherness. It is a month of twinkling lights, mugs of hot chocolate, and cozy evenings. With the arrival of December, we embrace the magic of the holiday season, eagerly preparing for festivities and cherishing moments spent with loved ones. It is a time to reflect, set new goals, and embrace the spirit of giving. December truly embodies the essence of joy, hope, and renewal, making it a cherished time for all.

Fancy making a friend from the forest?

A festive reindeer... from two logs, branches, buttons, and some old decorations.

Firstly, the logs are cut to the desired size of the body and the head. The branches are cut for the legs, neck and tail. A drill is used to make four holes in the bottom of the body log - just slightly larger than the diameter of the leg branches, so that they fit 'snugly' inside. The angle of the holes will depend on the chosen position of the legs. A further two holes are drilled into the top, for the neck and the tail.



Drill three more holes into the log which is for the head, for the neck and the antlers. I have used an old decoration as antlers, but you could choose sticks with branching twigs, this will create the impression of deer horns.

As you can see from the picture - I used old buttons to give my little reindeer, eyes and a big black nose, and I made ears from an off cut/corner of a branch.

He is a *little wonky*... but it was fun collecting the wood and I enjoyed making this homemade festive decoration... I hope you do also.



Supporting our local businesses when looking for those Christmas gifts and essentials...

CHARLTON VILLAGE CONVENIENCE STORE

OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK | 7AM* - 10PM (*SUNDAY 8AM)

Oaktrack's Annual Christmas Market, now in its fifth year, is dedicated to showcasing local and sustainable festivities.

Saturday, 9 December | 3-6pm

This year, Oaktrack will be joined by a number of local artisan producers and makers, offering a range of products including cheese, fruit liqueurs, bespoke designed homewares and cards, handmade Christmas decorations, candles, and jewellery.

The event promises to be a festive delight with the barns decorated for Christmas, twinkling lights, live music, hot food, chestnut roasting, homemade mince pies, and a fully stocked bar, including mulled wine, to get everyone in the festive spirit!

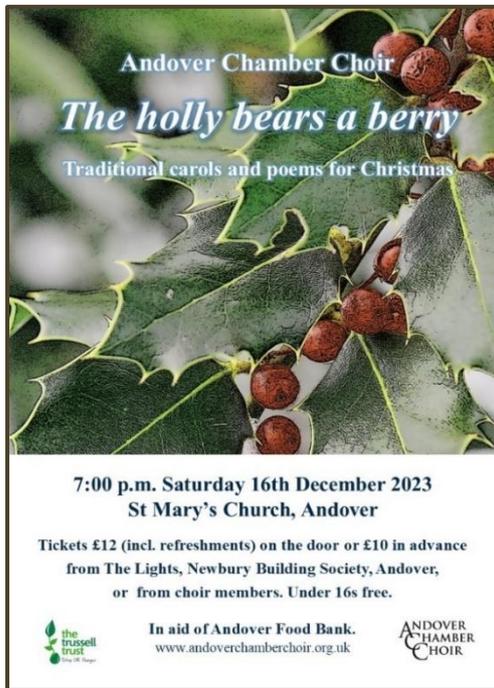
Entry to the event is free, and there is plenty of parking on site. The market is open to all, and Oaktrack invites everyone to come and join in the festive cheer.

To find out more about this event and Oaktrack, please visit www.oaktrack.co.uk

"We're excited to be holding our 5th Christmas Market here at the smallholding. Now more than ever, we feel it's important to support other small local businesses like ourselves and focus on making our festivities more sustainable. We're fortunate to have fantastic local producers and craftspeople in our area, and this event will provide an opportunity for them to showcase their products and share their own unique stories with visitors."

Tina Wells, Oaktrack owner and smallholder





Andover Chamber Choir
The holly bears a berry
Traditional carols and poems for Christmas

7:00 p.m. Saturday 16th December 2023
St Mary's Church, Andover

Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) on the door or £10 in advance
from The Lights, Newbury Building Society, Andover,
or from choir members. Under 16s free.

In aid of Andover Food Bank.
www.andoverchamberchoir.org.uk

ANDOVER CHAMBER CHOIR

Andover Chamber Choir returns to St Mary's Church, Andover

This year's programme is entitled "The Holly Bears a Berry" and aims to evoke the spirit of a traditional village Christmas.

The music includes many popular carols such as 'The Holly and The Ivy', 'Good King Wencelas' and Harold Darke's beautiful setting of 'In the bleak Midwinter'. Less familiar items such as 'Down in Yon Forest' and 'The Wexford Carol' plus selected readings will transport us back to days gone by. There are carols for the audience and a lively medley in which the audience will have fun seeing how many carols they can recognise!



The Festive period is pictured by many as an occasion when families come together for fun and happy times. This image brings with it enormous pressure and expectations. The reality that while the festive season can be very exciting, for some, it can be a time of financial worries, tension, loneliness or depression.

There are many reasons people may feel alone at Christmas, such as living far from relatives and death of a loved one. There are ways to cope with being alone at Christmas but first, we want all residents to know that we care and will be here for you.

If you find Christmas a difficult time of year...

Age UK (England) **0800 678 1602** (ageuk.org.uk) - Information and support for older people. Age UK's English helpline is open 8am to 7pm, every day of the year.

The Silver Line **0800 470 80 90** - Provides a helpline for older people, available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

If you need someone to talk to, you can call the **Samaritans helpline** any time of day or night, any day of the year, including Christmas Day. Call **116 123**

Shout is a free, confidential text messaging support service for anyone struggling to cope. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Text 'SHOUT' to 85258**

YoungMinds is a charity supporting young people with their mental health. They offer a helpline for parents worried about their children, and a text service for young people looking for help and support.

Parent's helpline: **0808 802 5544**

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger: **text YM to 85258** for urgent help, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Christmas Lights...

There is something truly magical about the glow of festive lights that illuminates our hearts and fills us with joy. They instil a childlike excitement within us, as we eagerly await the moment when darkness falls and the world is transformed into a dazzling spectacle of sparkling lights.



Sunnyside Close Christmas Lights 'Official' switch-on... 3rd Dec at 5:30pm

Each year, Sunnyside Close and a number of other estates, and individuals, put up spectacular Christmas lights across Charlton, which brings great joy to both adults and children.



Join in...

This year we would like to raise the profile and award a prize, or prizes, for best house and best street or enclave.

During the week 18-22 Dec, an impartial 'team' will observe and take notes with the winners being published on 23 Dec.

Enjoy lighting up the Village, with hundreds of festive lights!!



CHARITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

...featuring Middle Wallop & Andover Military Wives Choir

Friday 07:00pm | **15** | December 2023

St Mary's Church, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP
Concert starts at 7.30pm | Refreshments available

ADULTS £12	Early bird tickets available until 5th Nov	CHILDREN £5
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BOOK VIA THE QR CODE or call Sally-Ann on 07872 944 838. All proceeds go towards supporting disabled people to live, work and enjoy life.

Enham Trust is a registered charity No. 211235, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 173199. Enham Trust Head Office, Enham Place, Enham Alamein, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 6JS.

military wives Choirs

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATORY

100 years | 1921-2021

enham trust

January...



January, the start of a brand new year, brings with it a sense of fresh beginnings and endless possibilities. It is a month of reflection, resolutions, and setting intentions for the future... it's a time to start afresh, to embrace change, and to make the most of the blank canvas stretched out before us. Together, let us venture into the unknown and make this January a month filled with hope, determination, and the courage to chase our dreams.

We're all feeling the pinch as inflation and mortgage interest rates remain stubbornly high.

If you're struggling to pay your energy bills, the **Warm Home Discount** might be able to help. It's an annual £150 discount on your electricity bills. It's designed for those who find it difficult to meet their winter energy costs. For more information, and to find out if you are eligible... **visit:** www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme.

It's not just energy bills... this time of year, many people embark on the journey of planning for the year ahead and set goals, both personal and professional. "A New Years Resolution". If reviewing your finances is on your 'To Do' list... then check out **Which?** – The online site that provides FREE ADVICE on things you didn't know, you needed to know. (www.Which.co.uk/cost-of-living)



Did you know that... The flower for January is the Carnation, and the birthstone is Garnet

In the garden What to do this month

January might be the middle of winter... however, as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow.

Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants.

Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for Wildlife in your garden.



WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL

A variety of events coming up - Tickets available from the Mill Shop, or via whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk



Crossing the Warp | 13 January to 17 March 2024

Presented by the **seven sisters handweavers**, who studied at the handweavers studio and gallery in seven sisters road in London. Their work involves different yarns including silk and cotton recycled from surplus industrial weaving waste, and embraces the diversity and richness of handweaving and its continuing relevance to contemporary culture. **Price included in your entry ticket to the mill building.**



'Smooth as Silk' | 17 January | 7-8.30pm

Whitchurch Silk Mill is a Grade 2* listed Regency watermill on the banks of the River Test and an important industrial landmark that celebrates and reflects the rich history of weaving. It is a living museum and the country's oldest operational silk mill. If you have always wanted to discover more about the Mill come and hear our longest-serving volunteer **Deborah Wheeler** talk about the history and operation of this rare survivor of the country's silk history.

Tickets £10, must be purchased from the Mill's website.

Thinking about Christmas Presents?

The Silk Mill shop has a splendid range of seasonal gifts at a variety of prices, including silk tree decorations, beaded bookmarks, cotton throws produced on our looms, beautiful scarves, Whitchurch silk-dressed mice... and their NEW range of Whitchurch silk-covered notebooks. OR, why not buy your loved-one(s) an annual subscription, giving access to the Mill all year round? There are three levels of subscription:

- Individual – £18, giving unlimited entry to the Mill
- Joint – £30, unlimited entry to the Mill for two people
- Family – £35, unlimited entry to the Mill for two adults and up to three children (5-16 yrs)

February...



February, the month of love and romance. It is a time to celebrate the bonds we cherish, whether with a partner, family, or friends. Beyond love, February is also a time to appreciate the beauty of nature's awakening, as flowers timidly begin to bloom, offering a glimpse of the vibrant world that lies ahead. So, let us embrace February with open hearts, spreading love and kindness to all those around us, and relishing in the beauty of both the tiny moments and grand gestures that make life truly magical.

GET BOOKED IN... FOR YOUR DATE NIGHT



A number of local venues offer that romantic setting, delicious food and entertainment for your... **2024, Valentine's Day treat**. Here's just a few to consider:

The Royal Oak - Charlton Rd, Charlton
Tel: 01264 352893
www.greeneking.co.uk

The Old Bell & Crown - Hatherden Lane, Hatherden
Tel: 01264 735321
www.oldbellandcrown.co.uk

The Oak - Smannell, Andover
Tel: 01264 363075
theoaksmannell.co.uk

The Fox Inn - Fox Hill, Tangley (Thia menu)
Tel: 01264 730276
www.foxinntangley.co.uk

Hare & Hounds - Charlton Down, Andover
Tel: 01264 735672
hareandhounds.pub

George And Dragon - The Square, Hurstbourne Tarrant
Tel: 01264 736277
www.georgeanddragon.com



"CAN FEBRUARY MARCH? NO, BUT APRIL MAY."



Ingredients

- 200g butter
- 200g caster sugar
- 320g plain flour
- 1 egg
- 1 tbs vanilla
- ½ tbs baking powder
- ½ tbs salt
- Jam

Heart Shaped Jam Biscuits

1. Mix the butter with the sugar. Then add the egg, and mix. Then add the flour, and fix. Now add baking powder, salt and vanilla.
2. Roll the mass out, add some flour and cut out circle shapes.
3. In the middle, make a heart formed outline and add the jam in there.
4. The oven should be about 360 degrees. Now cook it for around 25mins – keep an eye on them.

WHAT IS TIME TO TALK DAY??

Time to Talk Day is run by **Mind** and **Rethink Mental Illness** in England, in partnership with **Co-op**.

It's the nation's biggest mental health conversation. Happening every year, it's a day for friends, families, communities, and workplaces to come together to talk, listen and change lives.

The next Time to Talk Day will take place 1 February 2024.

We know the more conversations we have, the better life is for everyone. Talking about mental health isn't always easy, but a conversation has the power to change lives. Explore this site for **ideas on how to take part in Time to Talk Day**, from organising a *local event...* (*do let us know about it, if you do...*) or hosting a lunch and learn session, to simply sharing information on social media, or texting a friend.

[Time To Talk Day - Time To Talk Day](https://timetotalkday.co.uk/)

<https://timetotalkday.co.uk/>



☎️ Don't forget, everyone is welcome at...

❖ **Cosy Café** at St Thomas, Church, Charlton Every other Friday, 1pm

❖ **Coffee Morning** at the Royal Oak, Charlton Every Wednesday 10am



Meet Claire...

My name is **Claire Hatrick** and I have been a resident in Charlton for 25 years. After losing 10 years of my life to undiagnosed menopause joint pain, leaving me unable to sit, stand or walk, I set about making sure that no other woman suffered the same and everyone has a basic understanding and knowledge of menopause!

I launched my free menopause website during lockdown www.theexecutivemenopausecoach.com and wrote menopause help – before, during, after which is aimed at men/businesses, as well as informing women at a younger age. I am a qualified executive menopause coach and deliver menopause workshops and presentations to businesses and organisations.

Sadly, **25% of women** will suffer horrendous menopause symptoms and more and more women are now leaving the workplace due to a lack of support or understanding. It costs 30K to replace and retrain an employee and with employment tribunals on the rise, there has never been a better time to include menopause in the workplace!

I am part of the Menopause Mandate campaign, alongside MPs and celebrities and proud to be a member of the Make Menopause Matter campaign. To date, we have achieved a once a year fee for an HRT prepayment prescription. 2024/25 All medical students will have compulsory menopause training. Menopause has been included in the RSE school curriculum in England from Sept 2020.

We are still campaigning and hoping the government will back our plans for...

- Mandatory menopause training for all GPs and medical students.
- Menopause awareness and support in every workplace.
- A national government funded public health campaign for menopause.
- With 51% of the population being female, menopause is not going away any time soon!
- Menopause does not just impact women's lives, it affects marriages, relationships and the workplace too.

If you are a business or organisation, looking to support your female staff in the workplace, or you are struggling with your menopause journey... please email

info@theexecutivemenopausecoach.com and find out how I can help you retain your experience, female members of staff, educate your senior leadership and support women with my one-to-one coaching.

THE EXECUTIVE MENOPAUSE COACH

Approximately 13 million women in the U.K are menopausal

SUFFERING WITH SYMPTOMS OF THE MENOPAUSE?

We are here to support you at theexecutivemenopausecoach.com
We have lots of **FREE** information, tips and advice on our menopause website!



Menopause Presentations

Bringing our menopause presentations/workshops into your business/organisation to educate all your employees.

Including:

- What is menopause and possible symptoms
- HRT/natural supplements/lifestyle changes
- Supporting colleagues and loved ones

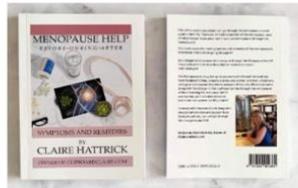
Helping to retain your female employees in the workplace

Menopause 1:2:1 Sessions

A personalised programme to help you with your individual menopause journey.

- A confidential safe space where you can discuss issues or concerns
- Help find solutions or strategies in a programme tailored to your individual needs
- Includes coaching and mentoring as well as education and awareness

Menopause Help: before, during, after



Our Menopause Help Book is great for:

- The workplace (individual staff members or in break rooms), men and informing women at a younger age.
- An easy and simple read, with a few pages per symptom and illustrations.
- All women who are peri-menopausal to post-menopausal.

Scan to go through to our website



Contact Us

- ✉ info@theexecutivemenopausecoach.com
- ✂ @menopausecoach_
- 📷 @theexecutivemenopausecoach
- 📘 The Executive Menopause Coach
- 📞 @theexecutivemenopausecoach



Visit theexecutivemenopausecoach.com for more information

Looking after yourself this winter...



As the winter chill envelops us, it's important to remember to keep warm and stay safe during these frosty months. Bundle up in layers, wear hats and gloves, and don't forget your cozy scarves to shield yourself from the cold. When venturing outdoors, take cautious steps on icy surfaces and be mindful of slippery roads.

Remember to drink plenty of warm fluids, stay hydrated, and nourish your bodies with wholesome meals.

Let's look out for one another, by checking on our vulnerable neighbours and reminding them to stay warm as well.



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"How is it December already? Another year almost over... and another opportunity for us to thank you all for the support you have given us, with extra thanks for all the concern and well wishes after we had the break in, it meant so much to us all.

If you're still looking for Christmas gifts, we have plenty of items in store to suit all budgets and needs. The **One4All gift card** is a popular choice for those people who are extra tricky to buy for!

We've started being called **"The one stop parcel shop!"** as we offer services from Royal Mail, Amazon, DPD, Parcelforce & Evri.

We have plenty of treats and goodies as well as fresh local produce, a large selection of wines, beers, ciders and spirits and not forgetting your everyday essentials.

Don't forget, if the shop is open, the Post Office is too so that's 7 days a week availability.

To keep up to date with our latest offers and news, please do follow our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/EnhamPOStores

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and the best of wishes for 2024."

Tim, Leslie and team

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CRACKER Jokes

What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

Santa Pause



What did the cow get for Christmas?

A COWculator!



Why is it always cold at Christmas?

Because it's Decemberrrrrrrr!



What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.



What's Santa's favorite candy?

Jolly Ranchers!



What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

A cookie sheet!



What's red and white, red and white, red and white?

Santa Claus rolling down a hill.



What do you call a snowman in the summer?

A puddle!



*Appleshall

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CHARLTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Your village newsletter is created and distributed by wonderful volunteers and printed by Bulpitt Print Ltd. The printed quarterly edition is delivered free of charge to over 950 homes, and can be downloaded from the village website www.charltonvillage.org.uk.

Have you got a story to share?

We believe that each of you holds a unique story, a cherished memory, or an exciting update waiting to be shared. That is why we invite you to be a part of our upcoming village newsletter. Whether you have a heartwarming tale, a fascinating experience, a new project, or any news you'd like to share, simply get in touch by emailing editor@charltonvillage.org.uk.

Your stories and updates hold the power to inspire, connect, and bring us closer together as a community.

***Deadline for input - 14th of the month before the edition.** For example, the next date would be the 14th February, ready for the March edition.

Commercial Adverts for goods or services

- Large – approx. A5 landscape (12cm H x 16.8cm W)
£40 per edition
- Small – approx. A6 portrait (12cm H x 8cm W)
£30 per edition

Please submit your adverts in JPG or PNG format.

*Acceptance of all advertisements, and articles are subject to availability of space and at the discretion of the Editor.

As the snowflakes gently melt away, we bid farewell to this winter edition of our newsletter, filled with stories, events, and the charm of the season. We hope it has brought warmth and joy to your hearts during these chilly months.

As we eagerly await the arrival of spring, we are already planning an exciting edition for March, filled with the promise of blooming flowers, fresh perspectives, and renewed energy. Until then, cherish the last moments of this winter season, continue to spread kindness, and stay connected with our community. **We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to captivating you once again with our next edition.**

Wishing you a cozy and delightful transition towards the arrival of spring!

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**



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Extending a welcome to the Charlton Village Community.



Charlton Park Crematorium. An oasis of calm in a hectic world.

Whatever the weather, Charlton Park is a beautiful and serene place to be. It's a place to rest, reflect and find inner calm. And a venue for many local family farewells, remembrance and memorial services.

You're most welcome to visit the crematorium's extensive, mature parkland and enjoy its peace this Winter. The grounds are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 10-4 at weekends, all year round.


Charlton Park
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You can access all the links that we have shared, via the online version of this newsletter. It can be found, alongside all previous editions, on our website - www.charltonvillage.org.uk

