

ChAP Update

Spring 2008 Edition



• Chippenham • Chippenham Without • Biddestone • Yatton Keynell • Castle Combe • North Wraxall • Nettleton • Grittleton
• Kington St Michael • Stanton St Quintin • Kington Langley • Seagry • Christian Malford • Sutton Benger • Langley Burrell

Chairman's Column

"This Spring edition of our Newsletter contains a new feature that we hope will become a regular one – the Parish Profile. The Parish and Town Councils in our area played a crucial role in the Community Plan that forms the basis of our work, so it is appropriate for Parishes within the ChAP area to share their aspirations and ideas, and talk about projects that are completed or ongoing. We also hope to involve the Councils with reviewing and updating the Community Plan soon, to ensure that it is a 'live' document and fully reflects current issues. Like other groups within the authority we are currently going through an evaluation process which is being handled by an independent external consultant.

It is clear that ChAP and the parishes will have to work closely together under the new local government structure, so this is another reason we are keen to forge links now.

Our terms of reference say that we will 'champion', 'broker', 'influence', 'co-ordinate' and 'negotiate' agreed ways forward for different interests within the ChAP area. If you have concerns, issues or aspirations that are frustrated, we can act as an advocate in a non-threatening, non-political way that has gained the respect of leading public sector organisations. This Newsletter tells you about some of our initiatives and achievements. From these small 'one brick at a time' beginnings, we hope to build strong partnership working. Parish & Town Councils will be vital to this task and to ensuring that 'Local' is retained in the new unitary governance."

Warm regards,

Jane Clark - Chairman
Chippenham Area Community Partnership

CAVE - Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists

We are a friendly and informal group, always pleased to welcome new faces at our meetings which take place in the meeting room above The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Chippenham. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at The Bear for looking after us so well, we really appreciate their support.



Fairtrade Town Status for Chippenham

Nick Murry is arranging a Fairtrade Discovery Evening following the Town Council's decision to support Chippenham becoming a Fairtrade Town. The evening will take place on Tuesday 6th May 7pm - 9pm at St Marys School in Chippenham.

Please come along and find out a bit more about Fairtrade and taste some of the delicious products for yourself!

For more information please contact Colette Som on 01249 814 278 or colette_som@hotmail.com.

For further information about Fairtrade please go to: www.fairtrade.org.uk.

Thermal Imaging Project – Hopeful that the remaining funding will be secured shortly. More information in the next edition.

Plastic Bag Campaign

CAVE is working in collaboration with Monica Blake and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to launch a campaign to reduce the amount of plastic bags currently used in the area. We are delighted to announce that the village shop Kington St Michael has already taken positive action, and no longer issues plastic carrier bags. We hope that other villages will soon follow suit. If you would like to get involved with this campaign, please contact Vicky Welsh on 01249 706446 or e-mail vwelsh@northwilts.gov.uk.

For further information about CAVE, please see: www.cave-environment.co.uk

Parish Profile

Biddestone and Slaughterford

On-going projects in the parish include preparing a village plan, now nearing completion. This has involved the formation of focus groups and a survey of all households. Planting around the edges of the pond will be undertaken shortly, the aim being to increase biodiversity through increased choice of habitats and protection from ducks! The war memorial should be renovated during the coming summer. A new seat has recently been placed on The Green.

We are also assuming responsibility for the public toilets, which should shortly be reopened.



Within Biddestone speeding traffic is a major problem. The Council agreed, with other local councils, to contribute to the cost of flashing warning signs at the junction with the A420. We are very concerned regarding the state of the road network in the parish, especially in the Slaughterford area. This is not helped by unsuitable vehicles being directed by satnav into narrow country lanes. **Tim Smith**

Update on Chippenham Area Community Health Services

15 representatives of local organisations joined the HASC group at their meeting on 2nd April 2008 when Tony Barron, Chair and Alison Knowles, director of Corporate Affairs and Communications at Wiltshire NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave an update on community health services in our area.

The move to looking after people in their homes rather than spending time in hospital is going well. The Neighbourhood Team, which is made up of nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists and provides care in people's homes, is getting established, and by Summer 2008 will be providing a 24/7 service. The introduction of this service means that Health and Social Services are starting to work together to provide a seamless service.

Although beds will be closing at Chippenham Community Hospital (date for this to be decided at the PCT Board Meeting in May) the future of the Hospital is secure. At Chippenham Hospital there will be the stroke unit, inpatient unit, maternity unit, minor injury unit, outpatients, ambulatory care – therapies, diagnostics (x ray etc) – fixed and mobile, the Neighbourhood Team is based there and the mental health team. A rebuild is promised for 2010/11.

The PCT is particularly concerned about end of life care as 70% of people when asked, said they would like to die at home, but at the moment 70% of people die in hospital, so the PCT will be looking at ways of providing services which will enable this situation to be reversed.

Plenty of time was allowed for those attending to ask questions, and so the meeting was most helpful and informative.

The HASC group will continue to monitor the provision of health services in the Chippenham area.

Next Meeting

10.00am Tuesday 29th April, Croft Court, Westcroft, Chippenham.



Hospital Discharge

The HASC group has had discussions with Wiltshire NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) about our concern for people who are discharged from acute hospitals and find that arrangements have not been made for their care when they get home. The PCT has been making efforts to improve discharge arrangements and although we think there has been some improvement we are still hearing about poor discharges. The Group thought it would help patients if a PCT PALS information leaflet was given to all patients upon discharge, and this has been taken up by the PCT.

PALS – Patient Advice and Liaison Service offers confidential help and advice to patients, relatives and carers, helps sort out problems quickly, provides information on all NHS services and wants to hear about your concerns and compliments. Phone 0800 389 7671 – 24 hour freephone (answerphone) Or email – pals@wiltshire-pct.nhs.uk



PERFORUM – the association of arts groups in the Chippenham area - has made great progress since the last Newsletter.

Readers may recall that Area 3 of the North Wilts District Council had made a magnificent grant of £8,000

towards PERFORUM'S Neeld Hall stage enhancement project (but dependent on matched funds). Chippenham Borough Lands Charity had generously granted £2,000, and this allowed the first visible progress – 6 new permanent lanterns in the Neeld Hall.

Now PERFORUM'S members have stepped forward themselves, with generous donations totalling nearly £5,000. This means we are now getting close to matching and therefore releasing the District Council grant, and going on to provide all the improvements planned for the Neeld Hall.

We now have sufficient funds for a lower-and-raise stagecloth track (whereby a scene change is achieved by drawing a stagecloth quickly across the stage). Tending is complete and we are ready to go ahead.

The full scheme will include a second stagecloth track system, improved lighting and sound equipment, a cyclorama, modular staging, and a lightweight scaffold tower. The work is co-ordinated through the Neeld Hall Working Party with the Town Council, who are going ahead with improving the stage surface, which has become uneven with time and wear.

PERFORUM groups are also working together to publicise events. We always struggle to spread the word about our exhibitions, concerts, shows etc, and we rely on income from audiences, so we are now circulating combined details of all our events to each other and externally. NWDC has offered the use of its electronic display in their foyer, and the Chippenham Festival's dot matrix will also be brought into use.

It is great to see groups working together, sharing expertise both back-stage and centre-stage, and loaning to each other such things as costume and stage equipment. Practical partnership working.

Transport

The Transport Special Interest Group is looking for enthusiasts / volunteers to join them. To find out more contact Julia Stacey on 07909 885134 or email: juliasuk@yahoo.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

29th April @ 10.00 am	Health & Social Care SIG Meeting Croft Court, Westcroft, Chippenham
1st May All day	ChAP Partners visit to Evesham
6th May 7.00pm - 9.00pm	Fairtrade Discovery Evening St Mary's School, Chippenham
7th May @ 7.30 pm	Perforum Meeting Jubilee Building, 32 Market Place, Chippenham
15th May @ 7.30 pm	CAVE Meeting Meeting room above The Bear Hotel Chippenham

Any feedback from this Newsletter or any matter that comes within our remit, please do write to Jane at: jane@seagry39.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01249 721171

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