

Colnbrook with Poyle News



Colnbrook with Poyle
Parish Council

Winter 2011

Volume: 1 Issue: 2

FREE NEWSLETTER

The Children's Centre Vicarage Way

The old school in Vicarage Way, during its sad and forlorn period, shown right, after years of neglect and suffering many attacks by thoughtless vandals, has finally been refurbished. During the term of the previous council, under the Chairmanship of Laurie Tucker, many approaches had been made to the Oxford Diocese, then the owners of the property, to assist in getting the facility back into use as community and youth facility. This started to appear a reality when Slough Borough Council were looking for a site to fulfil a promise made in 2008, that there would be three new Sure Start Centres built in the borough, and Colnbrook would be getting one.

With their dedication and sheer tenacity SBC managed to get the building, or rather the shell, into council ownership. Rapidly followed by the appointment of consultants AED Practice who designed and project managed the refurbishment, which has been accomplished to high standard with great sympathy to the Grade II listing, as shown on the right. We now have a Children's Centre a library a My Council office, with 2 meeting rooms, one will house a computer suite for community use. It is now down to the residents to make good use of the facility.

The photograph (bottom right) shows the building in its heyday when in use as the local C. of E. Girls School.

(c. 1947 as the air raid shelter appears to be in the background).



Chairman's Notes

Christmas seems to come around more quickly each year and 2011 seems to have flown by. It's been a busy year for the Parish Council both before and after the elections. The beginning of the year saw the reopening of Colnbrook Recreation Ground following a major refurbishment of the children's play areas. Thanks goes to the Colnbrook Community Partnership which has given fantastic support to the Parish Council and local community.

The Council's objections to the Slough International Freight Exchange were drafted and submitted.

A new council was elected made up of eight members with many years of experience and four keen new ones. A Parish Plan was established and the members chose appropriate working groups to be part of. All pursuing the aims of the plan.

It is fitting to acknowledge and extend our thanks for the enormous effort that our retiring Chair for the last 9 years, Laurie Tucker, has contributed to the community. Laurie has been a long serving Councillor since the inception of the Parish Council, we extend our good wishes to both him and his wife Bea.

Increased sponsorship: We have already received a number of significant donations towards the new Village Clock which will now be known as the Jubilee Clock. If you or your company are interested in being part of the funding group please contact the Parish Clerk.

Re-invigoration of Village Hall user groups: Colnbrook Residents Association are active again (originally formed in 1947) and have already made several bookings at the Village Hall. They are also organising a series of community lunches. The first one is being held a week before Christmas. The Association is also looking to establish an indoor sports section again using the Village Hall.

Senior Citizen facilities/Activities: The Residents Association is offering special concessionary tickets for our senior citizens for the Christmas Lunch.

Green Belt Protection: The Parish Council lodged a successful objection to the recent Slough International Freight Exchange as part of the continuing campaign against Green Belt erosion. The Parish Council is also working closely with The Colne Valley Park in their protection efforts.

High Street traffic reduction: The Parish Council together with Thames Valley Police are seeking Slough Borough Council's assistance with a new initiative.

Improved public transport: Two committed Parish councillors have produced a report on the current situation and will be carrying this together with recommendations forward to the District Council and local bus operators.

Provision/Support for Adult Sports facilities: As mentioned elsewhere we are hopeful of having an Adult badminton and table tennis club established in the Village Hall in the very near future. We are also looking into the possibility of an outdoor sports facility close to the Village Hall.

Increased Doctors Surgeries: This is currently proving to be one of our most difficult challenges.

Youth Engagement and provisions: We are pleased that the Colnbrook Community Partnership continues to provide funding for the youth group. The Parish Council are looking at alternative ways of assisting with the Film Project the group are hoping to run.

Improved Fire Tender display: We currently have a situation where there is no power supply in the section of the building that the Tender is housed. We are investigating what can be done about it at minimal cost.

The Village Clock: We have received planning approval for the Jubilee Clock but await Highways comment/approval before proceeding. As mentioned before we are appealing for sponsorship of the costs involved in the purchase and erection.

Colnbrook enhancements: Colnbrook's "Love Where You Live" Campaign was launched in the summer commencing with a week of action. Lots of community groups, the Scouts, the Police Cadets, both Schools, the Police, local waste companies and several District Council departments were involved. I again send a special thank you to Esther Deacon of Slough Borough Council for all the work she put into the event. I also mention Colnbrook Residents Association's kind donation of funds to buy paint and brushes used to spruce up the railings around the Splash and the lampposts down the High Street.



Community Wardens with members of the Police Cadet unit painting out graffiti on cable boxes in the village.

Notice Boards & web site: We now have new informative permanent notice boards situated throughout the Parish. Please look out for bulletins which will be displayed on the boards. We also have a new and again very informative website, www.colnbrookwithpoyleparishcouncil.org.uk. Check it out.



Residents taking part in the Big Clean, on Saturday 24th September, collecting rubbish from the car park at the side of the Village Hall.

Community Cohesion: “Love Where You Live”, the week of action and our work with The Colnbrook Residents Association all aim to improve the overall cohesion of our community. Speaking to many outsiders who have seen our community in action or had dealings with the Parish Council it is apparent that they are quite envious of the way many parts of our community work so well together. Let’s all make it even better.

In closing I wish the whole community of Colnbrook with Poyle a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Clr. Peter Hood Chairman.



Above: Members of the Slough Police Cadets unit with PCSO Pietro Mingola and in the background NAG Chair Alistair Metcalfe, carrying out a speed operation near Elbow Meadow again on Saturday 24th September.

Message from our Clerk & Finance Officer

Once again Christmas is here, how time flies! This past year has been a very busy and productive one, both for the old council and the new following elections in May.

The Colnbrook Recreation Ground had the biggest refurbishment it has had since the original one when the Parish Council carried out the initial re-structuring in 1996. It’s re-opening was a great success, and our thanks must go to the Colnbrook Community Partnership for this.

The mundane work of planning applications and other routines have continued apace, especially with the Council’s opposition to building on the green belt for the S.I.F.E. proposal.

Once again the flowering baskets and troughs were in evidence this year, together with Christmas trees and decorations in the Village. The Parish Council has also funded the PCSO’s for a further two years and Colnbrook now has the lowest reported crime incidence in Slough.

For those who use their computers, all Council meetings, agendas and minutes together with much other information is now available on the web, our notice boards have all been refurbished and information maps placed in them, which has attracted much positive comment.

This, together with Slough Borough Council on a final positive note is the excellent news of the Sure Start Centre in the completely refurbished Youth and Community Centre by St. Thomas Church. The new centre together with its library will, I am sure, be another success story.

May I once again wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and an enjoyable holiday break before the bad weather is upon us.

R. Hewson
Clerk and Finance Officer

Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 working with the community



Not only has our new Local Hilton offered help to the Colnbrook Residents Association their staff have also been out in force helping with the Parish Councils "Love Where You Live" campaign.

On Friday 25th November starting at about 1.30 in the afternoon a team of Hilton

litter pickers set about the east end of the Village collecting forty five bags of rubbish. Much of it found in areas close to the Poyle Industrial Estate. Their efforts were only brought to a close when it started to get dark.

A big thank you to all the volunteers.

A Year of Change: The view of a new Parish Councillor.

In December 2010, I was just a 'resident' from the village who attended the Parish Council meetings with a hope that they would attend to the problems and questions I asked of them. I did not realise then that one year later I would be a Parish Councillor being part of the team that I had posed questions to previously.

As the winter passed we had the quiet period when Heathrow was shut because of snow, but the work of the Parish Council continued. The term of the Council was coming to an end, and with the 'stepping down' of four councillors, an election in May 2011 was inevitable.

At this point the real beginning of my journey started. It was suggested that perhaps due to my interest in the council and the village, as demonstrated from my attendance at the public sessions of the main meetings, that I should consider joining the council.

After analysing several key factors such as, do I have time to spend on Parish Council matters so as to provide added value to the community as well as myself, I found that I was suitably interested enough to submit my registration as a candidate. I then had to set about letting people know who I was and what I had to offer them as their representative voice. Both an entertaining and time consuming exercise, I was going on holiday in less than a week from being accepted as a candidate, I had to move fast.

I finished typing my election leaflet at midnight on the Thursday and got 2000 brochures delivered to my home at 5pm the following day. I then started a delivery of the brochures, quickly realising that this was not a couple-of-hours job. I know I have lived in Colnbrook for over 15 years but I was visiting streets and houses I had never been to before. Combining talking to residents and almost wearing out a pair

It's official!!



Our local Pharmacist, Kishore Laxman pictured with Iwona Garncarek at the presentation ceremony.

Colnbrook Pharmacy has the best Pharmacy assistant not only in this country but Scotland and Wales as well. On October 20th at the Pharmacy Business Awards held at Park Plaza, Westminster Hotel in front of 900 guests, Iwona Garncarek of Colnbrook Pharmacy was voted as the Pharmacy Assistant of the year. Iwona came to the UK from her home in Poland four years ago speaking very little

English, let alone reading and writing, having given up her job as a school teacher. She went to night classes and then did correspondence courses to become a pharmacy assistant. We are all very proud of her achievements and for putting Colnbrook on the map. There are some 11,000 pharmacies in the country but we have the best. That's official!!

of shoes in the process I actually visited every house in the Parish during that weekend. I think I deserved my holiday after all of this, I am glad I never considered a 'postman' as a career choice!

I returned home at 9 am on the day after the elections and despite a 12 hour flight I was filled with excitement as it was the day of the count. This day appeared to be interminable, there were more re-counts of the parish votes than I can remember but at long last just about as the sun was setting they had been agreed and the process of seeing who the electorate had chosen commenced. At long last the final results were declared and the list of 23 became 12 - I was successful and had been duly elected to serve.

I was not actually a Parish Councillor yet, that is not until I signed the relevant documents of acceptance of Office, and that formality would take place at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council after a training session at the town hall, I signed my name and formally became a Parish Councillor.

I was fortunate, as being a regular attendee of meetings I had acquired some basic understanding of the business and services the Parish Council provide. The new chairman set up the aims of the new parish council and we started the process. It was very strange at first as most of the council had served in the previous term and it was probably business as usual for most of them. In fact much of what was in the first few meetings were items that had started before the election and shows that the council work is continuous throughout the year. I took on the challenge of getting a new and more modern website up and running for the council as well as assisting the re-vamp of the parish notice boards as my first projects. This suited me very well as it was something I could get done as well as learning the more technical aspects of council business. There is still so much to learn but as my term of office is 4 years I do have some time to do this.

Ellr. Leslie Jarrett

Colnbrook Residents' Association Community Lunch.

Sunday 18th December 2011

Colnbrook Residents' Association are happy to announce what we hope will be the first of a succession of community lunches in the Village Hall. Hilton Terminal Five Heathrow have kindly offered the services of their Executive Chef Paul Danabie to prepare the meal. La bettola restaurant are helping with the service on the day and have donated a raffle prize of a meal for two in their restaurant. There will be a cookery demonstration which we hope will help those intending to cook the perfect dinner on Christmas day.

On the day we will need a few volunteers possibly to help serve and definitely to wash up and leave the Hall and Kitchen in the condition we find it. It will be a real community event. We may even have a visit from Santa!

Menu

- Starter:** Carrot and Orange Soup
- Mains:** Option 1: Turkey, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes Veg. & Trimmings.
Option 2: (vegetarian) Butternut Squash and Sage Tart.
- Sweet:** Lemon Tart with Fruits of the Forrest
- Then:** Mince Pie
- To Finish:** Coffee
- Price:** 5 course meal @ £7.50 per person:
Concession (under 10 over 65) @ £5.50
- Optional:** Cheese & Biscuits (Extra @ £1.00)
- Wine & Drinks:** On sale from the bar

Arrive around midday, lunch will be served around 1.00pm.

Bookings should be made at The Colnbrook Pharmacy places are limited so please hurry.



The aim of the partnership is "to promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Colnbrook and the surrounding area the

conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and the natural environment for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life for the said inhabitants".

The partnership is a registered charity: No. 1115166

The partnership is attended by representatives of SBC, Local Residents Groups, Groundwork Thames Valley, local businesses and the Parish Council.

Projects Underway and Proposed Projects are Outlined Below:

Pippins Park Poyle Receives the Prestigious Green Flag Award for Park Excellence for the Second Year in a Row.

You will have noticed that considerable work has been undertaken in the Park since 2007. This has resulted in the Park being presented with a green flag for the second year in a row. This is a truly remarkable feat for such a small park. The Colnbrook Community Partnership has been active over the last few years planning and raising the money to carry out the works. This has brought the park up to a remarkable standard that can be sustained over the coming years to allow residents to enjoy many activities with their children, families and friends. The award is for excellence and leisure facilities and marks the great strides that the park has made under the driving force of the Colnbrook Community Partnership. The footpath lighting, together with the floodlighting for the multi-use games area was completed and was handed over to the Partnership on Friday 28th May 2010.

It is hoped to raise further monies to be spent on the final phases of the project and there is a proposal to turn the obsolete basketball court into a football/tennis court with a solid net. Also it is intended to plant more shrubs and trees at the entrance and to the east and west sides of the park.

At the finish of the project it is expected that we will have raised and spent some £205,000.00 with the considerable help from Grundon, SBC, BAA and Groundwork Thames Valley.

Colnbrook Recreation Ground.

Colnbrook Community Partnership has successfully finished the refurbishment of the park with Biffa funding and considerable monies from the Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council. Work started in October 2010 on improving and extending the play equipment area within the recreation ground. Slough Borough Council also responded to requests for equipment from their Play Builder fund and have contributed the 2 Way Zip wire at a cost of approximately £12,000.00. The play equipment railings were painted by arrangement with the Probation Service.

New superior goal posts have also been provided that have rear and side grills to protect the fencing behind the goals and to provide netting as requested by the users at a cost £12,228.00.

Altogether the Colnbrook Community Partnership will have raised and spent over £ 96,000.00 towards the refurbishment scheme. Mayor of Slough Councillor Jagjit Grewal with Local MP Adam Afriyie cut the ribbon for the grand re-opening of Colnbrook Recreation Ground on the 22nd January 2011 on a very wet and muddy day. The local Scout Group manned the refreshment tent with hot drinks and biscuits being served. Whilst Mike Rayner brought along his brazier to keep

everyone warm. Lorrie Paesano brought his alpacas down for the opening and everyone was able to feed and touch them (Hand wash was of course available).

Colnbrook Youth Service

At the July 2010 meeting of the Partnership Elise Bushati from the Slough Youth Service emphasised that the budget cuts were severely restricting the amount of work that they can do for the youngsters of the parish. The Youth Service had been very active on an extremely reduced budget but that type of service would now suffer due to the lack of funding. The Colnbrook Community Partnership decided that they were so impressed with work that Elise and her team were providing for the youngsters that they would sponsor some of the activities. They felt that this work warranted the funding as the youngsters enjoyed the sessions immensely and it would be a shame for all the recent hard to go waste. The Partnership has therefore, funded the hiring of the Colnbrook Village Hall and Westfield Hall and has sponsored other activities that the youngsters particularly like to participate in. In this way we believe that everyone benefits from additional funds that this provides and it keeps the youngsters focused on the youth services that Elise and her team provide.

Indeed the Partnership would like to thank Elise and her team for the work that they do with the youngsters of the

Parish given the facilities that are available to them. Many of the activities are carried out, out of doors and are reliant on good weather and that is why the Partnership is extremely pleased to be able assist with the hiring of the hall.

Church Gardens

The partnership has commissioned Thames Valley Groundwork Trust to design a new landscape design for the gardens which will then be presented to the church for consultation and to ensure that their ideas and aspirations have been met. Once this has been agreed we can then present this plan for funding that it requires.

Westfield Hall

Colnbrook Community Association in consultation with the residents has highlighted that the hall is in need of some drastic refurbishment. To this end the CCP is looking at ways that it can help and will be meeting with all parties to identify where it can help.

Slough in Bloom

We are delighted to say that in collaboration with the Parish Council we have again achieved a Gold Award in the Community Project section of the competition.

Clbr. Ray Angell

Hon. Sec. C.C.P.

Colnbrook Residents' Association Adult Badminton & Table Tennis Club

Colnbrook Residents' Association are keen to assist the Parish Council in their efforts to improve community cohesion and provide a level of adult sports facilities in the Village.

With this in mind the association is looking to establish a badminton and table tennis club. Colnbrook Village Hall management committee are agreeable to providing the hall as

the venue and allowing the club to put down the court linings subject to there being sufficient interest for regular bookings. We already know of several people looking forward to such a facility in the centre of the Village.

If you like the idea of becoming a member please contact:

Leslie Jarrett

on 01753 686 648 or email on lesjar2509@sky.com.

Colnbrook and Poyle N.A.G.

The Neighbourhood Action Group is a pro-active multi agency group made up of local residents, Parish Council, SBC Neighbourhood Safety Team and Thames Valley Police. It is a national initiative and has been set up to give local communities a say in the priorities that they wish the local police team to act upon.

Our group was set up in 2007 and the three local priorities set are:

1. Vehicles breaching the access prohibition on the High Street.
2. Anti-social behaviour by young people and lack of youth engagement activities around the Westfield Estate, parish hall car park and the alleyway from the High Street.

3. Anti-social behaviour in parks, High Street and Westfield estate. Young people play chicken with cars on the road, dog fouling and trade vans dump rubbish illegally.

It is important that people who come across crime or antisocial behaviour, whether it be a victim or are witness to such activity, please ring the non-emergency number 101 – If a crime is in progress then 999!

It is important that all incidents are reported and logged no matter how small, as it is only by this action that we can arm the police with the powers to plan the areas to concentrate their efforts, where it can be most productive. Never has the saying “he who shouts the loudest gets the attention” been more true than in these situation.

We are all in this together, let's work as a team and assist the police to help us!



An Accident Waiting to Happen?... It just has!

This was the scene that confronted residents at just before 9:00 am on Friday 25th November, at the junction of Coleridge Crescent and Bath Road. At a time when mothers were taking their children to school, fortunately no injuries to the public were sustained - but how different it could have been if a car on the school run had been waiting to exit Coleridge Crescent?

This is not the first of this type of incident at this part of our village we have endured two other occasions when commercial vehicles have ended up on their sides at this bend from Poyle Road. It is not simply a case as to whether the vehicles were travelling too fast or had mechanical failure, the salient fact remains that commercial vehicles are having these 'accidents' and it is potentially putting residents and their children at risk of serious injury or even worse.



The more pressure to build freight warehousing on the Poyle Trading Estate, brings more freight vehicles into our village. Freight vehicles have a safer route into and out of the Poyle area without having to endanger our residents, but that would require our Local Planning Authority (LPA) to attach conditions to the planning approval. (FN 1) If all HGV movements from and to Poyle freight centres were prohibited from entering Bath Road from Poyle Road and had to exit or arrive via Junction 14 to the M25, which would give them access directly to the trunk road network, these dangers and inconvenience to our residential areas would have a greater quality of life.

The western end of Colnbrook is just as dangerous with HGV movements, or perhaps more the lack of movement. This end of the village is plagued by vehicles taking advantage of the widening of the bend around the BP Golden Cross service station to park up whilst waiting for a space on the forecourt. However the overriding concern exhibited by some driver's is not one of safety and professionalism but one of "has anyone reached that vacant pump before me?" Not only is the vehicle on the wrong side of the road on a blind bend, because impatience would not allow for the car transporter to reverse into the High Street, but the driver is not paying attention to the road at all, instead watching for the space on the forecourt. It is certainly not by good driving standards that a major accident has not occurred at this site, it is purely by good luck, and one day somebody's luck will run out, and it will most likely be an innocent road user whilst these 'professional' drivers maintain greater protection from the size and weight of their vehicles and continue to show nothing but contempt for the residents.

Below some other scenes of serious road safety issues footpaths blocked & parking on the highway.



Cllr. Mike Nye.

FN1 The Parish Council have already written to Slough Borough Council expressing our concerns with planning policies which are turning Colnbrook into a Freight Centre at the expense of local people's quality of life. We await a response but in the meantime we shall be taking the matter up with Chief Executive in person.

Councillor's Attendance Record

Since the first session of this Council on 10th May 2011 up until our Christmas recess there have been 20 sessions, comprising of Main Meetings, held on the first Tuesday of the month, followed by both a Services and a Finance & Policy Meeting, held on the 3rd Tuesday of each Month.

The following is a record for each Councillor:-

Councillor	Attended	Percentage
Cllr. Angell	18	90%
Cllr. Brenner	16	80%
Cllr. Burke	14	70%
Cllr. Hood	18	90%
Cllr. Jarrett	19	95%
Cllr. Jones	12	60%
Cllr. Laxman	16	80%
Cllr. MacDougald	17	85%
Cllr. Nye	19	95%
Cllr. Smith	12	60%
Cllr. Underhill	17	85%
Cllr. Verma	19	95%



We wish all residents of Colnbrook and Poyle the warmest of Christmas Wishes, in the hope that the New Year will bring fresh hope for the future.