

and provide a small amount of amenity space there.

The council has raised the precept this year by just over 4.1% to provide sufficient funds to deal with the worst of the blockages and clear the Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed that are in danger of smothering the native plants.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

The hotel is offering an introductory, two month only, membership of its Spa which includes use of the fitness centre and the pool.

For further information contact Victoria Durbajlo on 01252 853304 or victoria.durbajlo@fourseasons.com

The hotel also hosts a wine dinner on the first Tuesday of every month, when a five course meal is complemented by wines from a chosen region. The dates for the rest of the year are:

6th April - English
4th May - New Zealand
1st June -, Loire Valley
6th July - English
3rd August - Sonoma & Napa
7th September - Hungarian
5th October - Portuguese
2nd November - Mediterranean
7th December - Bordeaux

WINCHFIELD FESTIVAL June 12th - 19th

As always, the festival is aiming to put on a range of concerts and recitals that will cater for all musical tastes.

Concerts take place either in St Mary's Church or the festival marquee near the Church.

The festival, which takes



place every two years, is now in its twentieth year. It has gained an enviable reputation for attracting world-class musicians.

Tickets and further details can be obtained on the festival website www.winchfieldfestival.org

For further information please contact ian.gavinbrown@gmail.com or call 01252 842487

THE PARISH COUNCIL

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Parish Assembly

12th April 7.15pm

All Saints Church AGM

18th April 11.45am

Parish Council AGM

24th May 7.30pm

Winchfield Festival

June 12th – 19th

Hog Roast & Barn Dance

26th June 7pm

Pet Service at All Saints

27th June 10.30am

Whispers Open Garden

11th July

Dogmersfield Flower Show

17th July

Harvest Supper

25th September

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates

21st June

26th July

6th September

18th October

6th December

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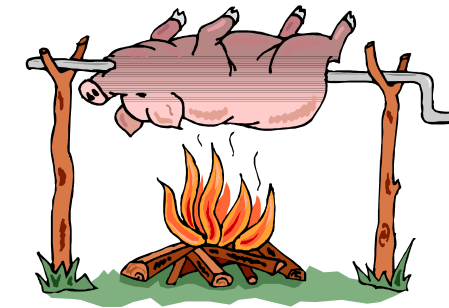
April 2010

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The parish assembly will be held on **Monday 12th April** this year.

As most of you know, this is a chance to meet and talk to your parish, district and county councillors, all of whom will be present. We will also have representatives of the local business community, the church, the pub and the school. Wine and refreshments are served from 7:15pm in the school hall (no stiletto heels please), and there will be an opportunity for open discussion on issues of interest to residents. This year we expect to spend some time discussing the threat of further development on the borders of the village, with the proposal by Berkeley Homes to build a further 800 houses on the Grove Farm site in Crookham village. Daryl Phillips, Head of Planning at Hart District Council, will present the agenda item on the West Fleet. development proposals.

COMMUNITY EVENT



This year's community event will be a Hog Roast and Barn Dance to be held on the evening of Saturday **26th June**.

Dogmersfield Primary School have kindly agreed to us using the school grounds and the hall. We have joined forces with All Saints Church to organise and promote this event and we hope to raise some much needed funds for the repair of the church organ.

There will be a maximum of 120 tickets for sale which we expect to sell fairly quickly. You can reserve your tickets in advance by emailing christine@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk or by phone from Claire Bennett 623213, Mike Ricketts 621083 or Althea Molloy 615510.

THE QUEENS HEAD PUB

Our local village pub has been going through a time of upheaval over the last few months, with periods of closure and 'caretaker' tenancies. A new tenant is now in place and the pub has undergone a facelift.



The new landlords, Tony and Penny Cotugno will re-open within the next couple of weeks with a re-furbished kitchen, new staff and a new menu. They are hoping to be present at the Annual Parish Assembly, when they will be able to answer any questions you may have. We wish them every success.

SHLAA and the PROPOSAL from BERKELEY HOMES

Hart District Council has to approve the construction of just over 200 houses per year in order to comply with government requirements under the directions of the South East Plan.

The Hitches Lane development is already under way with approx 300 houses to be built and an application already in to build a further 75 on the same site.



Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Church Crookham will almost certainly receive approval in the near future with anywhere between 500 and 1000 homes being built. Berkeley Homes have also applied for permission to develop the land on the other side of Hitches Lane in Crookham Village with approx 600 houses. Approval for this development would almost certainly fulfil Hart's quota. All the objections – no infrastructure, schools, medical provision, flood-

ing, water supplies, roads etc apply. We need to work closely with Crookham Village and the residents of Fleet and Winchfield to provide a comprehensive and structured response to this proposal whilst having an appreciation of the difficulties Hart DC face in providing their statutory obligations.

SALT BINS

Following the severe weather this winter, Hampshire County Council has offered to provide a number of salt bins for community use throughout the county.

They have written to all Parish Councils requesting that we submit a detailed application if we require some of the bins. The criteria for locating these bins adjacent to the highway are quite exact and there is no guarantee that there will be a sufficient number to provide for all those who apply.

The Parish Council at present does not feel that we have a strong case to present, but if any residents feel that a salt bin would be of value at a particular site, please will you give Alastair Clark, our Highways Officer, the details.

THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL

Some weeks ago we were asked to circulate immediate warnings about a potential flooding problem associated with the Basingstoke Canal between Dogmersfield and Crookham Village. Emergency work was carried out during that weekend and the following week to install temporary dams across the canal adjacent to Double Bridge in Dogmersfield and Chequers Wharf in Crookham Village so as to limit the amount of water that would be released if the embankment was breached.



Subsequent site inspections have shown that the damming at Crookham Wharf Bridge and Double Bridge in order to immediately isolate the affected embankment is working well and that the water level of the canal on that section has reduced.

This allowed a closer inspection of the section of embankment at risk and

revealed that there was no water emerging through the surface of the bank. This indicates that the leaks are limited to the side of the canal rather than the bed.

Repair works ought to be possible without fully draining this section of the canal any further which also means that a fish rescue and any further ecological impact is now unlikely.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

It is most likely that, due to a retirement, there will be a casual vacancy on the Parish Council after our Annual General Meeting on 24th May. When this happens the Parish Council has to advertise the vacancy for a minimum period of 14 working days during which the electorate have the right to call for an election. If there is insufficient demand for an election the Parish Council may then co-opt a "volunteer" on to the council and the person co-opted becomes a Parish Councillor. In either case we need a volunteer to either stand for election or be co-opted on to the Council at some point after May so that they can formally take up the post in July.

This is an ideal opportunity for someone to give something back to the community within which you live and make decisions that will hopefully improve the quality of life for our residents and local businesses.

If we are unable to find a volunteer within the Parish we have the option of extending our search up to three miles beyond the Parish boundary. If there is more than one volunteer, and no election is called for, there will have to be an internal Parish Council selection process.

The Parish Council meets about twelve times a year for formal Council meetings and there are other out of meeting activities that sometimes need some input.

As well as attending Council meetings there is a certain amount of paperwork to look at but as an average the job will not take more than a couple of hours of your time per week. Obviously if you want to give more time it will always be welcome.

Training for the post can be provided either by the Parish Council or the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

If you are interested in offering your time and ex-

pertise for the benefit of the community please will you contact Christine Lowe, our Chairman, to discuss the vacancy.

You are of course welcome to attend any of our Parish Council meetings to get a flavour of what the job entails.

DITCHES AND DRAINS



The Parish Council has, for some time, been attempting to find a solution to the blocked drains and ditches and the broken culverts that run alongside Chatter Alley, through Pilcot Green and into the river Hart. We had hoped to organise volunteer working parties to do some of the work, but repair of the culverts and removal of invasive species needs to be undertaken by professional contractors. We were initially successful in securing grant money for most of this work, but the funds were dependant on what turned out to be a controversial plan to clear part of Pilcot Green