

Crookham Village Parish News



Parish Council

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Contacting the Parish Council

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clerk@crookhamvillage.org.uk

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Visit the Parish Council web site at

www.crookhamvillage.org.uk

for latest news, contacts, agendas and minutes.

More information about Zebon Community Centre is at

www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk

01252-615003

admin@zeboncopsecentre.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

We are busy with a Neighbourhood Plan to help protect Crookham Village parish from uncontrolled development

Final touches are currently being made to the Crookham Village parish Neighbourhood Plan in preparation for final consultation with parishioners before the plan is submitted to higher authority. Consultation documents will be available on line and, on request, in hard copy format.

Parishioners will receive a leaflet advising the start of the consultation period. Your comments will be vital not only to make sure that the Plan is as relevant and acceptable as possible, but also to provide evidence of parishioners' views

Goodbye Fleet Link

Fleet Link community bus service is funded jointly by Hampshire County Council, Fleet Town Council and Crookham Village and Church Crookham parish councils. However, the major contribution by HCC is under threat from 2019 due to loss of government support grants. This has forced a critical review of the viability of the service.

Despite encouraging more use of the service, only 6 out of 1700 parish households have used Fleet Link so far this year and the annual subsidy has continued to exceed an acceptable level at an average of about £300 per user.

As a result, the parish council has reluctantly decided that it will cease to participate in the subsidised Fleet Link service after the end of March 2019. This means that our parishioners will no longer qualify to use the service from 1 April 2019.

Up to 31 March 2019, Fleet Link scheduled services to local destinations will continue to be available to our parishioners on timetabled days of the week. Users need to register and pre-book pickups from their own homes via 01252-518090. All vehicles are equipped with a tail lift and can accommodate wheelchairs.

Current fares are: to Fleet Town Centre £1.50 single, £3 return; and to Camberley/The Meadows/Farnborough £2.25 single, £4.50 return.

Concessionary bus pass holders may travel for half price, but the adjacent HCC consultation discusses removing that concession for holders of an older person's bus pass.

Note that minor changes to timetables are currently under consideration, so please check for changes if you plan to use the service.

Changes to Local Bus Route No 7

The No 7 bus route between Reading and Aldershot via Fleet has been split between two companies. Stagecoach run their subsidised No 7 from Aldershot to Phoenix Green via Fleet to link with Reading Buses No 7 from Fleet Station to Reading via Hartley Wintney.

Through tickets are available and the two services coordinate a changeover in Hartley Wintney.

Meanwhile, the Stagecoach No 10 service continues to run past The Wyvern and along Gally Hill and Coxheath Roads to Fleet and Farnborough.

Both Stagecoach and Reading Buses have free smartphone apps which include real-time bus times at stops.

See the Useful Information page of the parish web site for links to timetables.

Modification of Chequers Wharf

Boaters among you may have discovered that embarking onto Chequers Wharf requires greater agility than usual because the wharf is higher above the water level than the deck of canal boats, a height difference that becomes exaggerated during times when canal water levels are reduced.

Difficulties experienced by the less agile and those in wheelchairs prompted consideration of ways to make access from canal boats less challenging. The result, after much consultation, is the scheme, currently being implemented, to reduce the height of the edge of the wharf and to grade the resulting slope up to the car park.

Work is being done by Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) volunteers, who regularly do much valuable work along the canal. BCS applied to Crookham Village Parish Council for a assistance with the cost of the works resulting in a grant of £1500 to be added to another contribution from Accessible Boating, which operates lift-equipped boats on the Basingstoke Canal capable of handling wheelchairs; the remainder is being funded by BCS.

It is anticipated that it will take some months to complete the works, during which time the car park will remain available and it will still be possible for boats to moor adjacent to the wharf and for pedestrians and others on the towpath to pass the site with minor diversions.



Crescent Green

After long negotiation, the Parish Council has now taken ownership of Crescent Green and will be responsible for future maintenance of the grassed area.

Although now owned by the parish, maintenance of the highway around The Crescent remains the responsibility of Hampshire Highways.

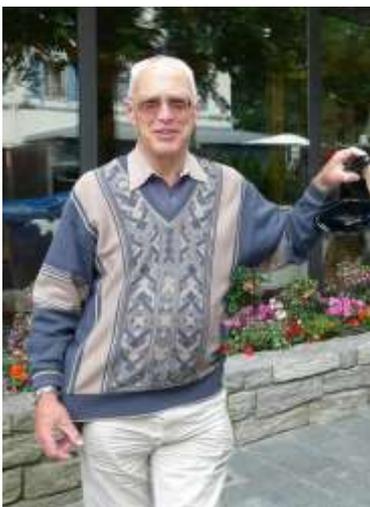
The Parish Council is considering placing a memorial seat in memory of long-serving parish councillor Peter Crawley, late of The Old Forge in The Street, who sadly died last year. Residents with views on this proposal are invited to contact the clerk.



Bob Edwards' Memorial Seat

You may have noticed a new bench seat outside The Kilns on Pilcot Road.

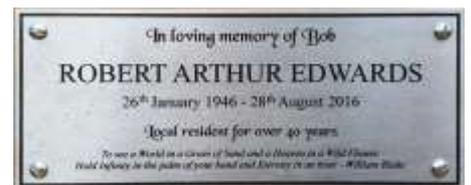
In 1975 Robert Edwards first moved to Church Crookham with his young family. He taught for most of his working life at College Town Junior School in Sandhurst as the Deputy Head Teacher. He was a devoted Christian and warden at Christ Church Crookham.



The 1990s saw Bob and his second wife as active members of the Methodist Church in Fleet and within the social community of Crookham Village; including the Horticultural Society and an avid lecturer at various clubs' events.

In retirement he was a keen photographer and digital printer. Producing all his own greeting cards designs and loving to experiment with different processes and projects. Chairman of the Maidenhead branch of the British Printing Society, he sold his work at conventions and at similar occasions in private gardens.

He leaves his wife Jane, two sons Simon and Chris, and his three step-sons Martin, Neil and Brian.



Planning Matters

Hart Local Plan

After years of preparation and one false start, Hart's Local Plan was again submitted to the Secretary of State on 18 June. A Planning Inspector will go through the plan and then, if the basics look OK, conduct an examination in public, possibly around the end of September. Only those invited to participate in the public hearings will be entitled to join the deliberations, but all sessions will be open to the public. The venue is most likely to be the Hart Council chamber in Fleet.

Cross Farm Retirement Village

The planning application for a large retirement complex immediately behind The Street on Cross Farm was comprehensively refused by Hart Council on 14 May 2018. We must now wait to see if the applicant will go to appeal.

Watery Lane Development

The Reserved Matters application to complete the planning process for 300 houses adjacent to Watery Lane and a roundabout on the A287 at the end of a re-routed Redfields Lane was approved on 8 June 2018. New sports pitches and pavilion will allow the existing sports section of Zebon Community Centre to be converted for community use (at the developer's expense) to cater for the larger population.

Grove Farm Development

The outline application to build 423 houses on Grove Farm (Land North of Netherhouse Copse) was granted at appeal last October. We have yet to see the associated Reserved Matters application which will provide detailed proposals for the interior of the site which will go out for consultation as usual.

Congratulation to Local Poppy Sellers

Three parishioners were recently given long-service awards by the Royal British Legion to recognise their outstanding contributions to annual poppy appeals for many years.

Our local MP, Ranil Jayawardena, handed over the certificates on 30 June to:
(L-R) Joyce Stace (40 years), Pat Farmer (30 years) and Monica Lamb (30 years).



Care & Support Web Site

A new and comprehensive guide to care and support facilities in Hampshire is now available online.

www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk includes a link to family support, services and activities.

A link to this and many other useful web sites can be found on the Useful Info page of the parish web site under the Local Info top menu item..

Summer Crime Prevention

The warm weather can lead to residents becoming more relaxed about home crime prevention, with windows and doors being left open around the house.

There have been recent incidents in the area of opportunistic burglars gaining access to insecure homes.

Up to date crime prevention advice can be found at www.safernh.co.uk.

Traffic Speeds

Speeding traffic continues to concern parishioners.

The parish council has deployed its Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Crondall Road and Pilcot Road to generate evidence to support future deployments of the parish Speedwatch volunteers.

Volunteer Speedwatch teams are administered and monitored by the police, who will take appropriate action if speeders are detected using our SID.

Jessett Drive Grit Bin

The grit bin provided by the parish council on Jessett Drive has been removed because it was damaged.

If you believe that there is a strong requirement for that bin, please make your case to the parish clerk. Otherwise, the bin will not be replaced.

Zebon Community Centre

Zebon Community Centre is a community facility that's playing its part in helping keep local residents and those from further afield fit and healthy!

Recently the Centre has become home to some new fitness classes catering for all the family. On a Monday and Thursday evening, Ben Cobbett offers fitness classes exclusively for dads which focus on fat burning and cardiovascular exercise and is underpinned with sound nutritional advice too. Ben is a dad himself so he knows how difficult it can be to fit in time to exercise and eat healthily around the pressures of work and a busy family life and hence he has developed these classes to help all dads who are struggling to find the time to look after themselves properly. Ben is currently offering a free 7 day trial to his club which includes a comprehensive health assessment, 2 exercise sessions and the Fitness for Dads nutritional guidelines that are helping dads lose up to a stone in just 4 weeks.

On Wednesday evenings Louise Perrin offers "Get Fit and Tone Pilates classes". This mixed ability class improves body comfort, flexibility, strength, tone, posture and ease of movement through a variety of mat-based exercises. Then, to round off the week, on a Friday evening the whole family can join together, mums, dads, children and even grandparents, for Family Fitness. These fun classes for those over 7 years old cater for all abilities and include mobility and stability drills, fun games and challenges and fitness and nutrition coaching. To make the most of the great outdoor space at the Centre classes are held outside, but with the option inside if the weather dictates.

The outside space offers further opportunity to be active in the fresh air and learn a new skill this summer as Velmead Archers are running beginners' archery courses on the field at 6.30pm starting on Wednesday 4th July. Full details can be obtained by visiting velmeadarchers.co.uk.

For those who are looking to be entertained rather than physically challenged, the Centre has the answer in the Hart Players Amateur Dramatics company. This great local group held their first performances at the Centre at the beginning of June.



The performances were a huge success with the audiences each night being treated to an evening of two halves kicking off with Alan Ayckbourn's "Farcicals" followed by "Mission Impossible" by David Muncaster. The group are currently working on their next performance which is due to take place at the end of November/early December at the Zebon Community Centre. Further details can be found at hartplayers.co.uk.

This is just a small selection of a wide variety of classes and activities taking place at the Centre on a regular basis. For full details of the Centre's programme or for information about hiring hall space on a regular or casual basis please visit zeboncopsecentre.org.uk. Links to the classes and sessions mentioned above can also be found here.

Parish Lengthsmen

As you may recall, the parish, after prolonged negotiation, is now authorised to employ lengthsmen contractors to do minor works adjacent to the highway. After being fully kitted out with safety items, they started work last year. As a parish resource, they can respond quickly when requests joined the long queue for county council workmen.

To give you an idea of the sort of things the lengthsmen do for us, their tasks this year have included:

Browning Road	Cut back vegetation around street name
Cron dall Road	Install and uninstall SID, clean road signs, prune foliage, reorient signs after collision
Danvers Drive	Cut back vegetation obstructing pavement
Hitches Lane	Clean road signs
Malthouse Bridge	Cut back vegetation to improve sightline left when approaching from Fleet
Redfields Lane	Clear vegetation from 30mph speed limit signs
Silvester Way	Prune low branches from layby
Zebon Copse estate	Clean signs to Zebon Community Centre

If you see something which the lengthsmen might deal with, please inform the parish clerk.