



LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Volume 1, Issue 27

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES RETURN OF VILLAGE DAY

There was a great response from the community to the return of Village Day, with so many of our voluntary organisations taking stalls and promoting all that they offer to enhance the community spirit of our village.

And our community itself attended in excellent numbers, making the event a great success.



Organising the event is quite a challenge and the Community Association, on behalf everyone, extends huge thanks to Mari

McLoughlin, Shirley Strange and Sue Cooper for the time and effort put in to ensuring that the event was indeed a celebration of our community. In addition, there were many volunteers, too many to mention, who ensured that all ran smoothly on the day – not least those acting as marshals to keep everyone safe when crossing the main road – and we also extend our grateful thanks to each and every one of them.

Also, we must recognise the major contributions from Cytiva, by allowing use of both its front and rear car parks and the fantastic involvement of our shops and traders, particularly in donating the many prizes for the raffle. (The willingness of everyone to buy the raffle tickets to support the event has enabled us cover our costs.)

Performances on the village green, and the many competitions added to the enjoyment of the afternoon and inside the newsletter are a selection of photos and various reports from our voluntary organisations, touching on their participation.



A special 'thank you' to Gary Grant of The Entertainer (Honorary Member of the LCCA), pictured opening Village Day

Village Day Fun Run

Village Day got off to a flying start with the Fun Run at Westwood Park. There were 192 runners who took part, which we think is a record for the event.

After an energetic musical warm-up, runners completed one, three or five laps of the park and, judging by the smiling faces at the end, the "Fun" aspect of the run was very much fulfilled.

continued on next page...



NATURE PARK ANNOUNCEMENT – SEE PAGE 4

Fun Run ...continued

Rory Hilton was the winner on the day; and there were also prizes for the youngest runner, Edie Farran (aged 2) and the oldest runner, Ben Begonzi, right.

More importantly, the event raised a fantastic £680, to be shared equally between our two charitable causes - Café 22 memory café and the Little Chalfont Nature Park.



A big thank you to all the volunteer helpers who made the event such a success, especially John Hilton, assisted by wife Annette, plus Hywel Thomas and Parry Hughes-Morgan. The sound system was supplied by Mike Crowe.



Our excellent Masters of Ceremony Bella Thompson and Dylan Clout (both drama students) drawing raffle with Shirley Strange (co-organiser)



King Penguin, winner of the scarecrow competition with Veronica Way from the W.I. and one of the other entries from the volunteers of Café 22



Tae Kwon Do demonstration on Village Green



Dog Show being judged



Some of the 23 stalls on Cytiva's car park



Right: Mark Dormer from Amersham Community Board talking to a resident

Community Association News

Former golf course and Homestead Farm development

We are currently seeing a lull in activity regarding the proposed development on green belt land between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane.

The expected next stage, that has yet to occur, will be a planning application by the developer for approval by Bucks Council of 'reserved matters' – that is, those details not included in the original outline application that need to be determined by one or more future major planning approvals. As is the case for all planning applications in Little Chalfont, the parish council and the LCCA will be able to comment on community interests in the reserved matters application(s).

To recap – in 2021 the developer submitted an outline planning application to build 480 dwellings and other facilities, such as a 'community hub', on green belt land between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane. The application was refused by Bucks Council but the developer

successfully appealed against the decision in March this year.

The parish council and the LCCA will continue to monitor development activity on the site and will provide regular updates in their respective newsletters and the free magazines that circulate in the village. The parish council and the LCCA will also continue to provide updates on their respective websites and on the 'Save Little Chalfont' website (savelittlechalfont.org.uk).

Buckinghamshire Local Plan

The Council has recently completed consultations on its draft vision and objectives for the Local Plan and these will no doubt be made available in due course.

The parish council and Community Association have submitted written responses to these consultations and for those following the progress of the Local Plan, they are available to read on the website:

<http://savelittlechalfont.org.uk/buckslocalplan/>

Amersham & Villages Community Board

Making a real difference

Our local Community Board (covering Amersham, Chesham Bois, Little Chalfont and Coleshill), formed as one of 16 community focused Boards as part of the new Unitary Council, is now well established and very much part of the fabric of our communities.

With its annual budget, it has already provided financial support to many projects put forward by voluntary groups, schools and parish/town councils. Little Chalfont has benefitted and there are three examples mentioned in this newsletter, where the Board has contributed. They are the paths in the Nature Park (page 4), the creation of memory cafés (page 5) and the display boards proposed by the children of Chalfont Valley E Act Academy (page 8). Other groups have benefitted too.

For members of the Board itself - principally Buckinghamshire Councillors – together with its Manager, Lizzie Wright, networking has become a strength and,

along with support in several different guises, has now achieved a strong profile. The Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA) maintains a strong link with Board and, particularly Lizzie Wright, who is the person who makes it all happen. Together with others from Little Chalfont groups, we attend the meetings and events held by the Board, providing the platform to keep in touch on all that is taking place, within the board area.

New project ideas are being sought all the time and, while the LCCA can help, often by pointing residents and groups in the right direction, an ideal way of discussing projects is to meet Lizzie Wright on her regular visits to the village. You will find her at our Community Library between 10 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on scheduled Thursdays and the current available dates are 24 August - 7 September - 5 October - 19 October.

So, is our Community Board really making a difference? From our perspective, we would definitely say 'yes'.

Your LCCA Committee

Enjoy reading the newsletters from the LCCA and parish council?

Would you be willing to help deliver them?

Delivery throughout the village is organised by the LCCA roughly every quarter and we are looking to boost our team of volunteers. The aim is to keep the whole village informed of activities with a printed newsletter, which can be read at leisure.

If interested please just send an email to communications@littlechalfont.org.uk with your name, the road where you live and a phone number. We shall then be in touch.

Nature Park News

Little Chalfont Charitable Trust to deliver on promise to lay paths in the Nature Park



The Nature Park vision has always contained a commitment to provide paths in the park, to ensure that everyone in the community, whatever their age or mobility, can enjoy all the benefits that the park offers.

Meeting this commitment of the stakeholders (the Community Association, the Charitable Trust, the Parish Council and the Friends of the Nature Park) has been a major challenge, but after extensive research and fundraising, coupled with interruptions caused by Covid 19, Brexit and other hurdles, laying the paths is now imminent.

The surface material chosen for the paths is resin bound gravel. The criteria to be met were comprehensive and this surface proved to be the best of all the alternatives. It not only provides the hard-wearing, smooth and non-slip surface required for those with mobility issues but is also permeable and, together with the sub-base and edging, is the most eco-friendly material needed to respect the very special nature of our meadow. Furthermore, it has enabled the selection of a colour that is most sympathetic to the park itself.

So that the path is not too prominent a feature, it will be 1.5 metres wide but there are also to be passing places by the display boards and benches, for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams. In addition, it should be mentioned that there will be spurs leading into the play/picnic area, into the planned sensory area, the circle around the sensory area itself and the entranceway is to have its final surface layer, matching the paths.

Need to CLOSE the park

All of this cannot be achieved without some inconvenience and many readers will have already seen the notice which advises the necessary closure of the park, while the work is undertaken. For those who have not seen the notice, it reads as follows:

Work is planned to commence on providing paths around the park on **Monday 14 August and is estimated to take approximately 5 weeks. For safety and other reasons, the Nature Park will need to be closed throughout this period.**

It will be subject to the weather being dry but if all goes well with the paths, it is hoped to be re-opening the park during the week commencing **18th September.**

Friends of Little Chalfont Nature Park

A Coffee Morning

in aid of the park will be held on

Saturday 2nd September at Little Chalfont Methodist Church,

Chalfont Avenue, HP6 6RD

From 10.30am to 12 Noon.

There will be a raffle, plus sales of books puzzles and greetings cards

Donations of cakes, biscuits, books and jigsaw puzzles would be appreciated, but no bric a brac please.

Could you offer a raffle prize?

Profits will be paid to Little Chalfont Charitable Trust.

Enquiries to robrolls9@gmail.com

We shall be supplying progress reports from time to time on the Nature Park website and Facebook page.

<http://naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk/>

The trustees



*Illustration only of a fully permeable resin bound path.
Gravel colour lighter than proposed.*

News from our Parish Council

Why not come and join us?

Do you like living in Little Chalfont? We hope you do – there's so much going for it! Our beautiful nature park, the sports and amusements available at Westwood Park including the children's playground, the village shops with one-hour free parking facilities to mention just a few.

Looking after all these facilities for the benefit of residents of Little Chalfont does take a bit of work and planning, however. There are many voluntary organisations set up in the village to help particular sectors of the community. But the infrastructure, such as footpaths, the new village hall, Westwood Park pavilion, street lighting and so on, all need to be cared for too, and that's the responsibility of the local parish council.

We are currently looking for a couple of new councillors, to replace those that stepped down recently after

many years serving the community on the council.

You don't need any special experience to be a parish councillor – just enthusiasm – as any training needed will be provided. To qualify you only need to live or work in the village and be over age 18.



We meet once a month on the second Wednesday in the village hall in Cokes lane, starting at 7.30pm. At these meetings we discuss various issues affecting Little Chalfont and its residents, which can vary from thoughtless parking, to speeding

drivers, to building the new village hall to replace the current dilapidated one, so there is plenty of variety.

Parish councillors also attend the parish planning meetings, held every three weeks, to discuss local planning applications. We advise Bucks Council of any matters that concern local residents who may be adversely affected by these plans.

If you would like to learn more about our work, why not come along to a meeting and see it in operation for yourself? No need to let us know in advance – members of the public are always welcome to any meeting at any time, so drop in when you can to see for yourself. The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 13th September, which will be a joint planning and general meeting, so lots of topics under discussion – some of which might affect you! Hope to see you there.



Community improvement plan (CIP)

The Little Chalfont Community Improvement Plan (CIP) represents the views and aspirations of the community. The Community Centre project rests with the parish council but others are joint initiatives between the council and Community Association.



Little Chalfont Good Neighbours

Dementia Friendly Communities

A new café for those with memory loss in Amersham

The Dementia Friendly Communities' team announce that, following the great success in Little Chalfont of Café 22, which offers a regular meeting place for those living with dementia and memory impairment, plus those caring for them, they are opening a second café in Old Amersham. It will be known as Café 23 and will open in the autumn, with coffee mornings held every Wednesday morning from 9.30 am to 12:30 pm.

It will offer a means for improving well-being by providing a place to chat and ask questions, to share experiences but above all a place of interest and enjoyment with a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, games and music.

We aim to have a group of trained volunteers at each coffee morning and if you would like to become a volunteer to assist us, please contact Helen Tyers on 01494 762395.



Community Centre

In the Spring edition of the parish council's newsletter, it was reported that the council were exploring more detailed plans. These are still awaited from the architects but it is hoped to supply more information in the parish council's Autumn edition.



Visit Little Chalfont Strategy

This project remains an aspiration for the village, not least as some of the necessary funding is already held by the Community Association.

The plans, as part of the Visit Chilterns Strategy, will include preparation of a series of walks as PDFs, together with at least one new display board, plus new and/or revised signage in the village centre.

The intention is to create a small team to develop the plans and this will be picked up as soon as time becomes available.

Community Information

Little Chalfont Evening W.I. – Inspiring Women

We kick started the year off with Two Spoons Tea and they were very engaging and their tea was superb. Next we had The Art of Japanese Flower Arranging. The displays were stunning.

We have had some fabulous speakers in the last few months and to ease us into the holiday season we had Carly from Little Retreat helping us all to do a proper skin routine.

The gardening group have done a fantastic job of building and planting a living throne to honour the Coronation of King Charles III! It looked stunning so please have a look before it gets taken down in a few weeks. Also, for the Coronation, we made cream teas to raise money for Café 22. A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us and helped raise over £350!

Village day was also a great day for everyone and a great success. We had a cake competition (won by Gill Batsman), and a treasure hunt (won by 'George'). The adult scarecrow was a public vote: the King Penguin won and was made by the Little Chalfont Evening WI (thank goodness it was a public vote!) and the children's scarecrow was won by Little Chalfont Primary School. Well done to everyone who entered, they were all wonderful. (See photos on page two)



Treasure Hunt

We had a very lovely trip out to Bhaktivedanta Manor, the Hare Krishna Temple in Watford, where we learnt about their culture and beliefs (See photo right), walked around George Harrison's garden and then were treated to a very tasty lunch.

As usual we have a busy six months coming up: we have Sing and Sign, A Royal Butler and John Lewis Heritage Centre to name a few. We also have lots of outings planned, book club, afternoon tea group, walking netball, garden group.....

And one for the diary Saturday 25th November 2023, Christmas Market 10-2pm in the village hall, all welcome. Crafts, gifts, cakes, plants and so much more!

If you would like to see what we are all about please do contact us on Icevevi@gmail.com or check out our website:

www.icevevi.wixsite.com/website

We meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall



Paula Hughes
President,
Little Chalfont
Evening WI

Little Chalfont Post Box Toppers - Did you spot them?

The Little Chalfont Knit & Knatter Group is a group of skilled and talented knitters/crafters and new knitters too. Over nearly nine years the group has taught many beginners to become confident in their projects.

The group funds events and lunches by raffles in celebration of being together and has won the Skipton Grass Roots Giving award to community groups twice, enabling the purchase of wool for their charity projects. The ladies enjoy the social aspect of the group very much with lunches and trips to knitting shows together.

Whilst working on their own projects, all join in with charity knits. Twiddle Muffs for Dementia patients - Hats, Scarves and Gloves for Sailors - Blankets and clothes for premature babies - blankets for a London

Hospital and for the homeless and Care Homes – and recently draught excluders for a Nursing Home, just to mention a few.

The latest project has been the Easter and Coronation Post Box Toppers to amuse and hopefully delight the villagers. Any comments would be welcome on the Little Chalfont Community Library website to pass onto the Group.



Designed and made by the Little Chalfont Community library
KNIT & KNATTER GROUP
Administrators: Christine Crease/Louise Boylan

Community Information

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had a busy start to the year, with



**1st Amersham Common Scout Group,
Little Chalfont – 2023 fun**



through the air on zip wires. The rest of the

activities including science experiments, exploring the local area, learning woodwork skills, cooking, teamwork challenges, shooting and archery in the spring term.

After Easter we had the Beavers visiting the Royal London Air Ambulance at RAF Northolt. They had a great time learning about all the work the team do and had a chance to look round the helicopter.



term has been focusing on athletic activities, cycling and healthy eating which they've all put a lot of thought and effort into.

In June, we had a table at village day where we ran a couple of games with the help of the children. This was successful in raising money for the group as well as giving us the chance to meet others in the community and chat about what we do.



A week later we all celebrated King Charles' Coronation; for which the group had made a large crown using roses, thistles, clover flowers and daffodils, which was hung from the tree on the village green. The Monday after, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all took part in the countryside "Big Help Out" by cleaning local street road signs.

Near the end of term, the Cubs had an evening on the water having a go at Dragon Boat racing. They all demonstrated good team work doing this and had lots of fun.



The Scouts had been practicing shooting, archery and orienteering in the Spring term and all these skills were put into practice for the District ChesAm Triathlon. We had great weather for this and they all did really well in the activities.

The term ended with the Beavers junk modelling boats, and then racing them down the stream in Old Amersham; and the Scouts had a walk through West Wood which finished at the fish & chips.

A short while after we had our rroup camp at PACCAR which went really well. We had most of the group joining us, the Cubs and Scouts stayed in tents Friday to Sunday with the Beavers joining them on the Saturday for one night, staying in a building. We had great weather again for the whole weekend and had fun doing activities in individual sections as well as a few group run games.

We are now planning for next year and aim to have a group social evening at the end of September. Details will be on our website if you are interested in coming along and finding out about our group.

We are working on opening a Squirrel Drey (for 4-6 year olds) and are looking for a few more Leaders and Young Leaders before we can start. If you would be interested in helping us with this or any of the other sections, please contact Victoria Golby on 07770 782 922 or at victoriagolby@live.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can find us at:

[1st Amersham Common | Facebook](#)
or
<http://1ac-scouts.weebly.com/>



After half term the Beavers and Cubs had fun at a shared evening learning circus skills and the Scouts got to fly

Proud of Bucks awards

Congratulations to Helen Tyers, winner of the Local Community Champion award for her dedication in setting up Café 22 in Little Chalfont.



Congratulations also to Jules Hargreaves: 'Highly Commended Community Champion' for providing aid to Ukraine, involvement with the scouting movement and food bank collections.



Community Information

Chess Valley Churches Together

The Chess Valley Churches Together committee includes clergy and members of St Aidan's Church, St George's Church, Little Chalfont Methodist Church, St Michael's Church, Chenies and the Baptist Church Chenies. They meet regularly throughout the year and organised a Walk of Witness on Good Friday starting at St George's Church and processing to Little Chalfont Village Green, stopping at several places for prayers. A short service was held on the Green before returning to St George's for a service followed by Coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

On Little Chalfont Village Day, the Churches Together had a stand and were pleased to have the opportunity to talk to people and let them know about the activities in the various churches.

Carols on the Green will be held on the 9th December.

Little Chalfont Primary School (LCPS)

Rob Hacking, Headteacher at Little Chalfont Primary School writes: One of the things we need help with at LCPS is our fundraising drive for solar energy.

Below is a link to a sustainability newsletter written by our eco-council showing funds secured so far and how much more we still need to raise. It also highlights many other sustainability initiatives we have undertaken to make Little Chalfont a greener, cleaner and more sustainable place to live.



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxsx4ym>

Chalfont Valley Academy wins!

The junior school category of the Bright Ideas competition held by Amersham & Villages Community Board has been won by E-Act Chalfont Valley Academy. The award was presented to Academy Ambassador Nick Nguyen by Councillor Gareth Williams at the annual engagement event held in Amersham Community Centre on 22 April.

Nick who has two children at Chalfont Valley explains: 'our children will design tourist information boards for the local area written and pictured from a child's point of view. It's a whole school project creating a set of seven boards on a range of themes to inform local people and visitors to the village who come to enjoy our beautiful Chiltern countryside.'



The information boards will be positioned at key locations around Little Chalfont and will include the history of the school, the Latimer Sawmill Estate, the Entertainer, Latimer House, the Metropolitan Line, Raans Farm and GE/Amersham International together with a board about Little Chalfont located at the heart of the village. Nick adds: 'we believe everyone in our community will benefit, building local pride, and Chalfont Valley children will be involved in an amazing learning project that engages them with local people and the place where they live.'

Chalfont Academy graduation

6 July was graduation day for Year 6 at the school and it gave all the pupils in the class a memorable moment to celebrate. We wish them every success in their new secondary schools next term.



LITTLE CHALFONT
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Weekly Community Café

(FREE and open to all)
Pop in for a chat,
coffee and cake
Starting Wednesday
4th October
From 3:00pm to 4:30pm



Summer Reading Challenge

Free activity
4 to 11 year olds
Prizes included.
Register in the Library for free



Storytime

Free activity for toddlers
every Thursday in the Library,
10:30 to 11:00
Our recent Soft Toy Treasure
Hunt in the Park

Helpers:
Louise
Boylan,
Caroline
Adams
(organiser)
and Kathy
Pierce.

