



LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Volume 1, Issue 28

Reintroducing and Revitalising your Community Association

The vision of the Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA), which is run by volunteers, is to make Little Chalfont an attractive and sustainable place to live, to work, and to enjoy.

We are funded by around 500 households shops and business members, who currently pay our annual membership fee of £10, and by generous local Corporate sponsors.

We work in liaison with the Little Chalfont Parish Council, informing and supporting their activities. We also liaise with Buckinghamshire Council and support local community activities in our village. We aim to be the voice of a vibrant Little Chalfont community.

During 2023 we have:

- Arranged the beautiful hanging baskets – our new supplier provided an excellent summer display, now replaced with a winter arrangement.
- Produced 2 newsletters, delivered to **all** residents and local businesses, and also helped with the production and delivery of the parish council's newsletters.
- Created wild flower patches around the village and also facilitated the planting of daffodil bulbs.
- Through our Good Neighbours initiative we have supported the highly successful dementia friendly Café 22.
- Arranged the first Village Day for 4 years – which was universally agreed to have been a very enjoyable and successful event.
- Supported and publicised the Little Chalfont Foodbank collection.
- Championed and supported the lovely Little Chalfont Nature Park, including the installation of all weather paths, making the Park more accessible to all.
- Monitored local planning issues to ensure that the views of local people are heard and represented.
- Been responsible for the Christmas lights throughout the village.

In 2024 we want to continue all of these activities, working further towards our vision to make Little Chalfont an attractive and sustainable place to live, work and enjoy. We want to review and take on board the changing needs of our community and the challenges we all face going forward: the cost of living crisis, changing communication preferences, the potential threats to green belt land and the challenges presented by climate change.

However, in order that we can continue all our activities and continue to be your community voice, we do need your support:

Please join our committee – or agree to assist us with a specific aspect of our activities. We need to recruit new people with new ideas, skills and energy to our Community Association. In particular we would appreciate help with a refresh of our website and expanding our social media communication.

We are also seeking support to lead or assist with an exciting project to encourage more visitors, 'Visit Little Chalfont' (for which some funding has been provided.)

Without more support, we fear that the Community Association will not be able to continue its work.

Please do come along to our AGM on the Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall to meet us and find out more. We are very keen to hear all your thoughts and ideas. (See final item on last page about registering.)

Village Christmas lights 2023

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas light display which once again lit up the village during the festive season making it feel warm and welcoming.



As usual, the lighting was due to the combined efforts and funding of the LCCA and the parish council, supported by our village shopkeepers and businesses. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned out on a rather chilly morning to collect and distribute the trees around the village. Thanks as always to Chris and his team from Sparkx for then erecting them, plugging them in and connecting up to the timers.

Thanks also to Chris for coming out one evening to reset the timers of the trees on the verge opposite the parade, which had stopped working due to an apparent power cut.

Thank you to Cytiva for entering into the festive spirit with us with their beautiful tree that was lit in front of Cytiva. Unfortunately, the lights developed a technical problem a few days before Christmas that couldn't be fixed in time, but the tree will be back in all its glory next Christmas!

A special mention to the lovely tree on the green and its display underneath provided by the WI. They always put a lot of thought into their displays and their Christmas themed one for 2023 didn't disappoint.



We wish you all a very happy New Year and we will be back December 2024 to bring more sparkle and Christmas cheer to Little Chalfont.

Christmas trees around Little Chalfont village



Chenies Parade



Nightingales corner



Cytiva's tree before the power failure



GE Healthcare's tree on White Lion Road



Carols on the Green

Carols on the Green had to be postponed because of the tremendous rain. Luckily, the band were able to make the new date when the weather was better and we all enjoyed singing Carols together. Rev'd Jon Bishop from the Chenies Baptist Church led the service and Rev'd David Whale from St. George's Little Chalfont and St. Michael's Chenies gave the address.



The World Day of Prayer will be held at Chenies Baptist Church this year at 10.30 am on Friday 1st March 2024 and will be followed by coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Golf course development

The companies that own the old golf course and adjoining Homestead Farm have been sold to a professional property development company (Hill

Residential). In the last couple of weeks, some of the executive directors of Hill have replaced the directors of the companies that formerly owned the old golf course and Homestead Farm. We would now

expect that development of the land will progress in due course with a formal planning application to develop the land, which will be monitored by the parish council and Community Association.

Nature Park Report

Nature Park – history and thank you – Statement by the Trustees of the Nature Park

Back in 2011, when 4.7 acres of natural meadow and semi-natural ancient woodland became available in the centre of the village, an idea was born; to buy the land for the community and turn it into a leisure amenity. A charity was formed and a fundraising appeal was set in motion, resulting in a tremendous community effort which raised over £200,000 from local residents enabling the trustees to purchase the land.

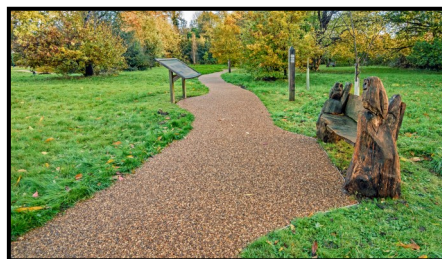
Following the initial community fundraising, further grants and support were provided by many benefactors, which then enabled a new access, clearing the site and making it safe, culminating with the opening in 2016, albeit without all-weather paths. From the outset, the vision for the park was that it would be available for the whole of the community to use, irrespective of age or mobility and the proposed paths would enable this to be achieved in full.



Efforts to raise the necessary funds were disrupted by the Covid pandemic and the more recent cost of living crisis which saw costs increase exponentially. Our particular thanks go

to the support received from the HS2 Community Fund, National Lottery, Chiltern District Council and the Amersham and Villages Community Fund for their grants which enabled us to fund the paths.

Specifically chosen to enable the park to be used by everyone, the paths are a hard wearing and non-slip Terrabase Rustic Resin Bound surfacing system, which exceed the mobility standards. These works needed to be completed in dry weather with our contractors requiring some heavy machinery. So it was with regret that, for safety reasons, we had to close the park for public access during the summer months. Further work will be undertaken over the coming months to finish the remaining tasks associated with the paths.



Our thanks go to those involved in the works and all those involved in the project over many years for their support and encouragement. Special thanks are due to our Project Manager, Peter Besley, for his control of the project, completed on time and within budget, and to our contractors Total Protection Group Limited for the actual works and the care taken in the

laying of the paths and protecting the meadow.

May we also thank our many workers, donors and sponsors over the 12 years, and to all those involved in fund raising activities enabling us to achieve our goals. Individually these are too many to mention but we would like specifically to thank our dedicated management team, the Friends of the Nature Park, the maintenance/working groups and the Action Group, who in the early days recommended many features of the park – including the paths.



Finally, our appreciation is given to the parish council for ultimately taking responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the park and their support over the entirety of this project.

“We thank all users of the park and hope that it will give you many years of enjoyment.”

Trustees of the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust - Roger Funk (Chairman)

Little Chalfont Charitable Trust – New trustees sought

The Little Chalfont Charitable Trust, a registered charity, was formed to take on projects that will benefit our community. The first of these was the Nature Park which was successfully delivered in the autumn of 2023.

We are now able to focus on new projects and will be shortly be looking ahead to these initiatives and would be keen to welcome new trustees who value the community and would like to help to deliver improvements.

We would expect that trustees live within the community and have an interest in continuing the good works.

The trustee’s role is not demanding on time and if you have work experience that you could contribute and would like to learn more, please contact the Secretary, John Small at johnsmall2405@gmail.com

Without new volunteers the Trust is likely to close.



Community improvement plan (CIP)



Little Chalfont Good Neighbours

Dementia Friendly Communities

The Little Chalfont Community Association, supported by the parish council, is committed to building a community where residents are caring towards each other and their neighbours. Nothing demonstrates this better than Little Chalfont's dementia and memory impairment Café 22. As it nears its second anniversary, the Community Association spoke to Helen Tyers, to learn about its success and future plans. Helen was recognised as the 2023 Local Community Champion of the Proud of Bucks awards for her dedication in setting up the Café.

What does the Café do?

The Café aims to improve the wellbeing of its guests and their carers in a social setting where they share interests and experiences and form friendships. The café is in St George's Church in White Lion Road, and is open every Thursday from 10 until 12.



Still life painting by volunteer, carers and guests

What was the motivation for launching Café 22 in 2022?

As the Community Association's Good Neighbours representative, I worked during the pandemic to help local people continue to communicate and the Community Association Chairman asked if I would be willing to set up a dementia Café.



Our very popular exercise class

What initial support did you receive from the Little Chalfont Community Association?

The Community Association backed the launch of the initiative, providing initial support and obtaining some start-up funding. Along with local contacts and encouraging support from St. George's Church, it enabled me to build a brilliant team.

What activities and events do you run?

We have exercises with music, concerts, interactive games and art and craft activities, together with information and discussion groups for carers, enabling them to support and help each other.

How is the Café staffed and who is on the management committee?

Our brilliant volunteers have received training from the Alzheimer's Society, focusing on communicating with those with

dementia and making them feel at ease. The management committee includes our Chairman, a retired doctor who is also a Church Minister, a professional carer, our Secretary who has extensive charity management experience, a teacher with an aptitude for art and craft, and our Treasurer. Most are now also Trustees, as we recently achieved charitable status and are independent of the Community Association.

How do potential attendees find out about the Café?

Attendees can be referred by their GP or simply ask to come along by calling me on 01494 762395. Guests don't have to have a formal dementia diagnosis to join us.



Volunteer with guests, making Christmas posies

How will funding for the future of Café 22 be secured?

Grants have been received from the Amersham Community Board, the Grant Foundation, the Paradigm Foundation, Amersham Rotary and other local benefactors. Guests and carers may contribute towards costs, and

Continued on opposite page.....

Interview continued.....

the committee, volunteers and carers hold fund raising activities. There will be a coffee morning in the spring in the Village Hall.



Celebrating the resulting fund from our raffle!

How has the success of Café 22 been measured?

We have grown from an initial 4 couples (guest and carer) to 18 couples regularly attending, with

firm friendships formed and our volunteers all find the experience highly rewarding. One of the biggest marks of our success has been the establishment of a 'sister' café, Café 23, in Amersham, also operating within the charity.

What have you learnt during the two years Café 22 has been running?

We are expanding our understanding of what can help those with memory loss and dementia, harnessing the benefits of music and in particular by developing our support of carers.

What's next?

We aim to help local shops and businesses in Little Chalfont appreciate and understand

challenges to and presented by those with memory loss.

What additional support from the local community would help?

We are always keen to recruit new volunteers. Please call me on the number mentioned above if you would like to join us and benefit from helping others.

And finally, Helen, how will you celebrate the second anniversary of Café 22 in February?

We will be celebrating the brilliant teamwork, with a party and a big birthday cake!

Very many thanks Helen – we all hope that Café 22 continues to go from strength to strength in 2024.

Margaret Booroff – LCCA Committee member

AMERSHAM AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY BOARD

The Community Board have an active Task and Finish Group that is working on a volunteering campaign and a series of events this year which aim to help local voluntary groups and organisations to recruit new volunteers. The campaign will highlight the many benefits that volunteers themselves would get from helping out locally, such as developing new skills, making new friends, getting to know their community better, supporting others through times of need and improving their own mental health and wellbeing. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this group, they can contact us via email at Amersham@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

We are hosting our first in-person board meeting on Thursday 15th February, 6:30pm, at the Amersham Community Centre,

Large Barn Hall. This meeting will be a workshop to discuss the local priorities for the year ahead, including areas of focus for the board and opportunities for delivering new collaborative projects. Due to the size of the hall, spaces will be limited so please do get in contact in advance if you would like to attend.

We would like to celebrate the success of the year we've had supporting a number of local projects, including:

- the new Dementia Cafe23 in Amersham, supporting those with dementia and carers,
- The Theatre Shed Outreach and Wellbeing Workshops, aiming to support young people,
- local events such as for the King's Coronation, the Outdoor Cinema in the Summer and the Christmas Festival at the

beginning of December,

- a pilot project supporting men with mental health issues, focusing on healthy food and the outdoors,
- new equipment for groups like the Family Food Hub who support those in need,
- A new minibus for Chilterns Dial-a-Ride to continue supporting the elderly with transport,
- Christmas Hampers for families struggling with the cost of living and regular community cafes and tea parties to help combat loneliness.

If you know of a local group who can deliver a meaningful project which will make a difference in our community, or know of a gap in provision, get involved in your Community Board to help shape the focus for the year ahead.

News from our Parish Council

Refurbishment works planned for Westwood Park

Westwood Park is a well used local park providing many facilities for families to enjoy, including sports equipment and a multi-use games area (MUGA) for children up to the age of 15.

However, some areas do become worn over time and the parish council needs to ensure that all the equipment is safe and enjoyable to use.

One of the most used areas of the park is the MUGA, which was installed in 2013. It was resurfaced almost 10 years ago but so popular is this games area that it has become worn and needs replacing again. Exact details of the type of replacement surface are

not yet available, but hopefully work will be finished before the start of the summer.



MUGA surface problem

The parish council also plans to repaint the lines in the tennis courts, which have badly faded in parts and all but worn away. The fitness trail equipment installed a few years ago has also proved very popular so part of the planned refurbishment and update will be the addition of some new sports/fitness equipment in the coming months.

Because there have, sadly, been incidences of vandalism in the park in the past, the council will be installing automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) apparatus in the car park to ensure that the park is as safe as possible to use at all times.



Faded tennis court markings

When visiting the park, please ensure that you use the car park, or, if this is full, that you do not block the driveways of any of the neighbouring houses.

Latest films showing at Little Chalfont Community Library



Evening performances at 7.30pm and matinees at 2.30pm

FILMS CAN BE SHOWN WITH SUBTITLES

Attendance is free; however voluntary donations are both welcome and needed to cover the cost of buying DVDs and to help with the Library's running costs.

Films showing in February and March:

- ◆ Oppenheimer
- ◆ Mission Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part 1
- ◆ The Great Escaper
- ◆ Sound of Freedom

To receive details by email:

send a request to littlechalfontlibrary@gmail.com

OR pop into the library for details

OR visit littlechalfontlibrary.org.uk

IT HELP at Little Chalfont Community Library

Free help and advice on your phone, tablet and digital devices available.

Sessions every two weeks on a Thursday from 1st February, 11am till 1pm in the library

No appointment necessary—just come along

Sessions are run by volunteer digital experts!

Get help with security basics, email, taking and sending photos, browsing the internet, shopping, travel, making bookings, organising files... whatever you are finding tricky...



**COMMUNITY CAFÉ
LITTLE CHALFONT
LIBRARY**

(FREE and open to all)

Come along for a chat, coffee and cake

Every Wednesday 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Community News

Little Chalfont Evening W.I. – Inspiring Women

As usual we had a very busy six months: Louise came to Sing and Sign for us and we learnt to sign 'Let it go' from the film Frozen which was very good fun. We had William French, a Royal Butler from the Royal Yacht Britannia, come to talk to us about his past role which was very interesting.

We had our summer President's Lunch, which was held in a member's garden. It was the wettest day of the summer, however, never deterred we



carried on and had a lovely time albeit wrapped in coats and blankets!

November was a sad month for me personally, as after five years as President, I decided to step down at our Annual Meeting. Diana Chatterton was voted in as our new President— Congratulations Diana.

Our sub groups are thriving: the book club meets every six weeks as do the afternoon tea group. Walking netball have been meeting up every other week rain or shine.



Walking netball

The quiz group meet monthly and join The White Lion Pub quiz and generally have been doing very well.

Finally, the garden group have done

some incredible displays for the village and we hope you enjoy them.



WI display under the triangle Christmas tree

If you would like to see what we are all about, please do contact us on lcevevi@gmail.com or check out our website www.lcevevi.wixsite.com/website

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

Paula Hughes

Little Chalfont Evening WI

Message from the Chiltern Foodbank

Thank you to the LCCA and their members for all the support that they have given The Little Chalfont Community Foodbank Collection over the last year.

As a village, we collected 3.256 tonnes last year for the food bank, who in turn helped 4600 people of which 1,900 were children and provided

39,000 meals. The majority of the people fed by the Foodbank live in Chesham, Amersham and Little Chalfont.

They anticipate a similar level of need in the coming year.

As well as giving out food, the Foodbank works with others to reduce the need for people to keep returning to the Foodbank : eg the Foodbank funds debt

action plans and fast track access to benefits reviews and advice.

The help of the Little Chalfont community is greatly appreciated and it is making a difference!

Collections every 2nd Saturday except August.

Future dates for collection:

10th February

9th March

13th April

Little Chalfont library's Knit & Knatter

Village Post Box Toppers

Following the success of the Remembrance Day Post Box Toppers (first right) and to the delight of the Little Chalfont Community, Christmas Post Box Toppers were made this year.

The library's Knit & Knatter group designed and made them to help keep spirits up at this time after a very trying year for everyone.



Watch out for the next versions coming soon.

Community Information



1st Amersham Common Scout Group, Little Chalfont Scouting in the Autumn, 2023

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been busy in the autumn, with all sections having several activity sessions at PACCAR scout camp (zip lines, crate stacking, caving and rifle shooting).



The Beavers have also been exploring the outdoors, having a night hike and finishing with

creating catapults to have a 'snowball' firing contest.

A couple of the Beavers also had a fun weekend sleeping over at Gulliver's Land with others from the district.

The Cubs have also been outdoors,

at Westwood Park and the Nature Park, as well as playing lots of games, working on crafts and a number of badges.

Scouts have started the term building tripods to climb on, before taking part in a District competition to build a bridge over the River Chess.



We've also been visited by an ex-Paralympian before visiting the Paralympic Heritage Centre, competing in a District hiking competition and finished with a talent show.

We had good representation for the Remembrance Sunday flag

parade, along with the Brownies and Guides, having the Memorial Service in a very full Village Hall.

And a couple of weeks later we filled the Methodist Church for our carol service. The collection at the end being for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

We are now looking forward to the weather getting warmer so we can start having more sessions outside again.

We are still looking for leaders to help run a Squirrel Drey (for 4-6 year olds), and hope to start once we have enough. 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/>



We record the grateful thanks of the community to Cytiva for kindly making their front car park available for use for local shopping during weekends.

Please come and support the **Little Chalfont Guides** at their **COFFEE MORNING** On Saturday 3rd February in the Methodist Church, Chalfont Avenue

Village day 2024 postponed

Despite the success of our village day last year, we have been unable to find someone to project manage the event for 2024. As a result we have decided to make village day a biennial event in the hope of finding someone by next year. If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please email villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk

Little Chalfont Community Association

Don't forget our AGM in the Village Hall on **Monday 22nd April 2024 starting at 7.30pm**. It would be helpful if you could register your interest by emailing secretary@littlechalfont.org.uk so that we can gauge the number of attendees.