



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Our 2024 achievements

This time last year we highlighted plans to revitalise your Community Association, in particular our aim to refresh our website, and we also issued a request for new people to join us to support the community.

We now have a **NEW LOGO**, above, which better reflects a modern volunteer run Community Association aiming to make Little Chalfont an attractive and sustainable place in which to live, work and enjoy.

Little Chalfont Park development

We continue to monitor local planning and have established the **LITTLE CHALFONT PARK LIAISON GROUP** in conjunction with the parish council to enable ongoing dialogue and discussion between the community and the Hill Team, responsible for the development. See **STOP PRESS** on page 4.

Christmas lights and hanging baskets

We continue to organise Christmas lights throughout the village, in conjunction with the parish council, and we very much hope that you enjoyed the new 'wrapped' trees on Chenies Parade (see page 2 for photo).

We also arrange the summer and winter hanging baskets, and the wildflower patches and are very grateful to both GE Healthcare and Cytiva for their support and to all local businesses who have recently joined us as members.

New website and What's On

In July, we launched our **NEW WEBSITE**: <https://littlechalfont.org.uk> and the website content will be further developed and expanded. We hope that you have had a chance to visit it and agree that it is now clearer and more informative.

A 'What's on' page has just been added and we welcome ideas for additional content, please email chair@littlechalfont.org.uk

If you haven't previously been a member, **PLEASE DO JOIN US**. We rely on your support.

See the QR code on the back page.



Village Day!

We are delighted that four volunteers have come forward to organise the 100th anniversary village day, on 21st June this year. Please do review their shout out for volunteer support on the day, in the box below.

.....continued on page 2

VILLAGE DAY

The Village Day celebrations on 21st June will start with a fun run in Westwood Park in the morning, and continue from 12.00 in the village centre with entertainment, food & drinks, and representation from all the wonderful local organisations who support our village.

Thank you to all those who have already agreed to participate. If your organisation would like to take a stall, it's not too late to apply.

On the day, we will appreciate volunteer support as follows:

- Roving raffle/programme sellers
- Seated raffle/programme sellers
- Helping to mark out stall positions
- Furniture movers /gazebo erectors
- Bunting hangers
- Car Parking and traffic (road crossing) marshalls
- Litter pickers

We will organise a rota to ensure that all volunteers can also enjoy the day. We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to assist with the design of a programme for Village Day.

Please contact Villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 24th February at 8pm
Village Hall**

We welcome all Little Chalfont residents and businesses to join us at our AGM for a brief overview of our activities and plans for 2025, and contribute ideas.

This will be followed by refreshments and then short presentations from the Site Leader at Cytiva and from the Restore Hope charity. We look forward to talking to you then.

Community Association update....continued

Newsletters

We continue to create an 8 page colour newsletter with items of interest around the village and distribute it to our 3000 households, thanks to our 40 or so volunteers.

New Treasurer and committee members still wanted

We do still need more support to continue our activities: In particular we are seeking a new **TREASURER** to manage our finances. If you can spare 3-4 hours a month, attend a monthly evening meeting and be able to maintain our financial records and transactions, (knowledge of

XERO would be useful but not essential), prepare budgets and financial reports, we would love to hear from you. Please contact chair@littlechalfont.org.uk for more details.

We would also welcome any local residents who would like to **JOIN OUR COMMITTEE** – or join us to support a specific project, for example, helping to review planning issues, or with the Visit Little Chalfont strategy that we are hoping to work on this year. Again, please contact chair@littlechalfont.org.uk

Subscription renewals

We have taken the opportunity of the new website to automate our renewal process. This will eventually free up much needed volunteer time

for other projects, but has required some energy and effort to achieve. We very much appreciate our members' patience during this transition and we thank over 80 of you who have successfully renewed via our new website.

Of course we will continue to offer membership via the more traditional method of bank transfer or cheque accompanied by a completed membership form for those who are unable to renew via the website. If you haven't already done so, **PLEASE DO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**.

If you need details of how to pay or another copy of the renewal form, please ask at the AGM or email: membership@littlechalfont.org.uk

FESTIVE VIEWS AROUND THE VILLAGE

Christmas trees

Little Chalfont was looking particularly festive this Christmas. A few photos of Christmas trees around the village:



Two of our wrapped tree lights on Chenies Parade



GE Healthcare's tree on White Lion Road



Cytiva's Christmas tree on Amersham Place



Our engineers putting up the 3' trees on Chenies Parade

WI display on the triangle

Another brilliant display by the WI.



Post box topper by Knit & Knatter



Carols on the Green

Carols on the Green was held on a very chilly Saturday 14th December, supported as usual by young

musicians from Amersham Music, conducted by David Batsman (right).

News from our parish council

Westwood park upgrades

Regular users of Westwood Park will have noticed the work being carried out there as part of the parish council's plans for a complete upgrade.

The multi-use games area (MUGA) and the tennis court can now be used. There will be no charge for use of the tennis court until the repainting of the court surfaces and lines is completed.

In the past, use of the tennis courts was via the outdated ticket machines. For the future, the viability of introducing an online booking system or a cashless payment system will be investigated. We will also review whether to make the courts free to use in the future.

The fencing gaps around the courts, (caused by the removal of the hedging), particularly the two by the children's playground, have been infilled as these are a health and safety priority. However, poor weather conditions before Christmas meant the contractors were unable

to complete the fencing leading to the grass area behind the sports courts. This will be finished as soon as weather permits and materials are available. Please note that this area is for general public use and not just for dog walkers.

We are also planning to resurface the car park, which is now badly potholed (see picture below).



Replacing the pavilion

The building of a new pavilion forms phase two of the park refurbishment project. The parish council has begun to canvass views from current pavilion users and plans to follow this up with an online questionnaire and a consultation event this year.

However, whatever final plan is agreed it will take time to develop and to raise sufficient funding. We

expect to start by seeking expert opinion on what is or is not possible for this new development.

In the meantime, the existing pavilion is showing several signs of wear and tear (see picture).



Recently there has been a water leak in the kitchen, a collapsed floor in one changing room, damage to drains caused by roots from the adjacent willow tree and damage to part of the roof.

We will therefore be regularly monitoring the existing pavilion as we expect more such issues as the building ages. It is therefore increasingly important that we build a new pavilion to ensure that it meets the needs of a rapidly growing local community.

Amersham and Villages Community Board

Little Chalfont volunteers recognised in Proud of Bucks awards

We were delighted that Little Chalfont volunteers were so well represented in the Proud of Bucks awards, organised by the Amersham & Villages Community Board and sponsored by the Clare Foundation, which were announced at the old Amersham Christmas Festival.

The overall winner in the outstanding Group Award, which celebrates a volunteer group who have made a positive impact, was the Little Chalfont Community Library. Read more about the great work of the Community Library in our good neighbours feature in this edition.

And Highly Commended in the Good Neighbour category was our own committee member, Shirley Strange. Shirley was nominated for all her work with the Little Chalfont Nature Park campaign and committee and working party, actively supporting the Chiltern Foodbank, setting up and playing a key role in the Simply Walks wellness initiative, being a very active, dependable and valued member of the Little Chalfont Evening Women's



Graham Yellowley (r) receiving the award on behalf of the library from Martin Tett.



Mimi Harker (Chairman of Bucks Council) presenting the award to Shirley Strange.

Institute, including playing a key role in the maintenance of 'The Triangle', setting up and organising multiple recycling schemes helping the environment and worthwhile local causes, and of course, as a very active and extremely valuable and much appreciated member of our Committee.

Our congratulations and thanks to all the winners.

Nature Park News

New Sensory area

The Park is open every day for all to experience, it's a beautiful, restful place to visit in winter, with the hard path making it easy to get around to see its natural beauty.



The management group supported by the parish council, Little Chalfont Charitable Trust and volunteers continue to be active, progressing a range of initiatives aimed at maintaining and improving the enjoyment of the park for visitors.

The new sensory garden (*right*) has been constructed and the final planting out was recently completed during a break in the bad weather.

We want our visitors to be safe and although, as previously reported, a few trees must be felled following expert inspection, we are always looking at ways of minimising the numbers so there is as little impact on the local habitat and wildlife as possible.

During the autumn, we have been pleased to see the usual colourful display of fungi including the fly agaric and our ecologist managed to spot both a wood mouse and a vole. Looking forward, a new brochure for visitors is being prepared for printing and improved signage both at and to the park is being planned.

The launch of a new video prepared by the girls at Dr Challoner's High School for our website is at final edit stage and we hope it can go live early in 2025.



Delighted with the early rushes, we have commissioned the girls to make a further video to show how the changing seasons impact on the park as a wonderful place to visit throughout the year.

To help us to maintain the Park we really could do with some more volunteers to join the monthly working parties or litter picking rota. Anyone interested should contact us on parkfriends@littlechalfont.org.uk.

Little Chalfont Park Liaison Group

Update on Little Chalfont Park

To help simplify the planning process, the Liaison Group has worked with the Hill Team to produce the timeline below, highlighting the stages during which the community can provide input on the development.

We are working on consolidating comments on the first four Reserved Matters Applications; SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace), Infrastructure, Western Parcel Housing, Oakington Avenue Bridge as well as a Section 73 Application to include amendments to some of the Parameter plans.

Our aim is to have comments on these ready for approval at the parish council and Little Chalfont Community Association meetings at the end of February.

To have your say, please visit Bucks Council Portal by 23rd February and search under 'Little Chalfont Park'.

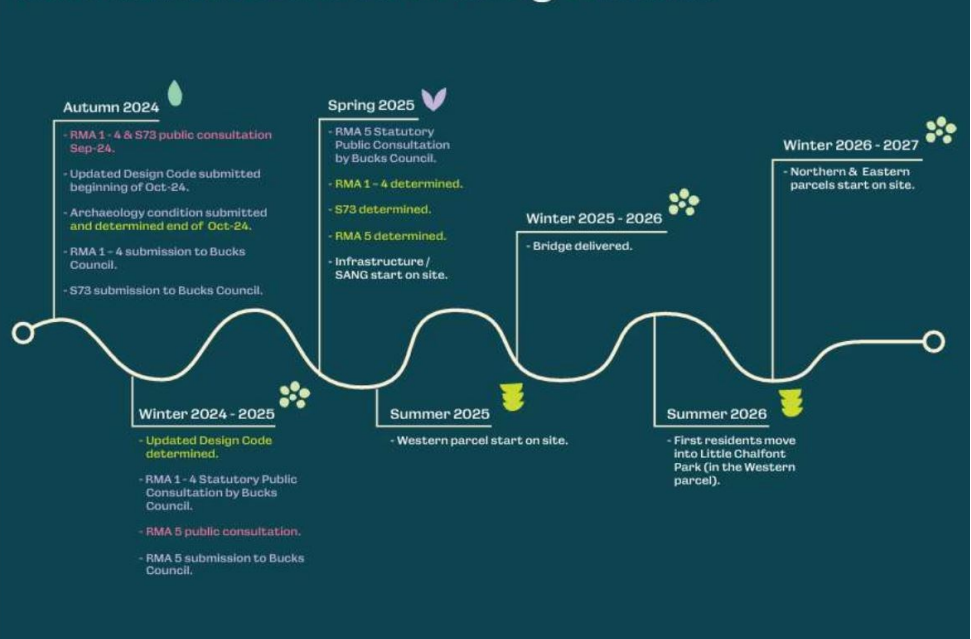
STOP PRESS

Community Consultation Event 3: Northern & Eastern Parcels - will be held on **Thursday 13th February**

from 3pm to 7.30pm in the village hall.

Here you will be able to comment on the next set of proposals for Little Chalfont Park which will be included in the next Reserved Matters Application (RMA) to be submitted in the spring.

Indicative RMAs Overarching Timeline



Little Chalfont Community Library

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. We focus here on the Little Chalfont Community Library team, who have just won the Proud of Bucks Outstanding Community Group award for 2024 (see photo on page 3).

We met with Graham and Wendy Yellowley. Graham is Chair of the trustees, and Wendy is one of a team of 3 managers, with Geraldine Newman and Gill Hudgell, who ensure the smooth running of the library.



Graham collecting the award

Graham, what inspired you to get involved with the Library?

I joined the board of trustees when I retired. It was time to give back to the local community, and as an avid reader, this was a great opportunity. I became Chair in 2019, and focus on managing and reducing costs, obtaining grants and donations, and fund raising.

Wendy, what was the attraction for you?

When the previous manager stepped down in 2020, the appeal for me in getting involved was the opportunity to be part of a team coordinating our volunteers, who each undertake short shifts of 1.5 or 2 hours. We need 32 volunteers each week to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Could you both summarise what the library provides?

The library is a community resource. People can just 'pop in'. Of course we have a great selection of fiction and non fiction books, but we also have newspapers, and jigsaws, including the 'jigsaw on the go' which anyone can add to, clubs to join, and plenty for children to get involved in. We are unique in that we buy all new books every month. Overall, we aim to provide a warm and friendly community space.

And does the library continue to be well used?

Yes, the number of visitors and loans is very strong with over 18,000 visitors to the Library last year, and we have had many new joiners, in particular new families. Loans of children's books make up over half of the total books loaned per annum.

Tell us more about the clubs within the library?

We have two people providing computer support on alternate Thursdays – which is a great community asset. We also have a

knit and knatter group, a scrabble club, and children's storytime and duplo club, film afternoons and evenings, book clubs and our weekly Wednesday community café, which has been a huge success.

What are your challenges?

We have limited shelf space, so are always seeking innovative ways of extending our shelving, but probably our biggest challenge is ensuring that we have enough volunteers each week. We always welcome new volunteers who would like to become part of our caring community.

What are your future projects?

In 2025, we are aiming to update our lighting, and also replace the boards outside the library. We are also hoping to develop the "easy fundraising" scheme allowing people to donate via purchases with popular retailers.

What support would you like from the local community?

We are always seeking new volunteers as mentioned above – please come into the library and chat to us if you would like to join the team. We also welcome donations of books and jigsaws, and of course financial donations.

Please do visit our website for further details

www.littlechalfontlibrary.co.uk

Many thanks Graham and Wendy and congratulations to the whole Community Library team on winning the Proud of Bucks award!



Little Chalfont Good Neighbours Café 22

Café 22 was founded to support those living with dementia and their carers. It takes place every Thursday morning at St Georges Church Hall, and provides a space for guests and carers to relax, form friendships, and enjoy activities.

It is now a charity, Little Chalfont Area Dementia Support, founded to ensure the sustainability of the Café and to promote dementia awareness locally.

The charity's efforts have been supported by generous donations, willing volunteers, and local organizations, leading to additional projects like the Dementia Immersive

Experience Bus in Little Chalfont in December last year.

The charity plans for further expansion in 2025. To find out more about the charity, its Cafés or volunteering opportunities, please look out for our posters or contact Paul on 07747 842341 or email us on Paul.R@lcdementiahelp.co.uk or lcdementiahelp@gmail.com



Autumn 2024 Scouting

Having started the year with plenty of adventures, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came back from the summer holidays with plenty of energy and enthusiasm for more activities.

The Beavers were focusing on health, fitness and teamwork and got straight into it with plenty of games and activities at Westwood Park and the Nature Park (including building a new bug hotel, below).



They then had several sessions of Scalextric fun (car racing) in Northwood Hills. Everyone had lots of fun with great driving, including the parents, and the Beavers drove really well.

The Cubs also had a couple of Scalextric sessions and enjoyed a visit to the fire station in Amersham (below) with them all having a go at using the fire hose and luckily, they all went home dry. Thank you again to the team at the fire station for showing us round.



boarding (below) and later in the term took part in an annual



competition (Bridge the Misbourne), though due to heavy rain and flooding the river wasn't accessible and they used a field in Amersham instead. This didn't stop fun being had by all and they did well.

They then enjoyed PACCAR for a few weeks, doing climbing, zip wire and a gladiator challenge.



Rock climbing at PACCAR

For Remembrance Sunday, the Beavers decorated stones which were laid on the memorial after a well-attended Remembrance flag Parade (right) and service with all sections, joined by the Brownies and Guides.



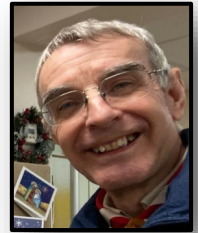
With the nights getting darker, every section had an evening walk, by torchlight. The Beavers walked in woods near Chorleywood and the Scouts hiked along the river and into the hills near Chenies with some great views of the valley (even if it was dark).

At the start of December, we had our joint uniform Carol service with the Guides and Brownies. This was held at the Methodist Church, and we sang various carols with a bit of the Christmas Story being read by one of the sections between each. There was a great turnout for this, with the hall full, and it was lovely to see them all carefully holding the Christingles when we lit them. The Scouts also had a go at recording podcasts with Bucks Radio.

We finished the term with the Beavers doing Christmas themed

Brian Alston, Cub Leader

We received the sad news early on in January that Brian Alston, a Cub leader with our group for over 17 years, had passed away.



He will be remembered with fondness as he had a great enthusiasm for the group and always had a smile on his face. He'd helped run the Cubs, contributing plenty of ideas and activities, for years and had also helped with the Beavers for a number years when we were low on leaders.

The children were really fond of him and will greatly miss him and his kindness. We are so grateful to him for all that he did for our Scout group.

Our thoughts are with Patricia his wife and Katie his daughter at this sad time.

crafts (they are all so creative) and the Scouts made Scout emojis and mini catapults.

We are now planning for next term and are going to be exploring Scouting, friendships and working on more badges.

We are looking for leaders to help with all sections but Cubs in particular (Tuesday evenings). If you would be interested in helping us with this or either of the other sections, please contact Victoria Golby on 07770 782 922 or at victoriagolby@live.co.uk

Alternatively, you can find us at:

[facebook.com/1stAmershamCommoNScouts](https://www.facebook.com/1stAmershamCommoNScouts) or

<http://1ac-scouts.weebly.com/>

NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

A Festive Triumph: Chalfont Valley's Christmas Fair raises over £1000!

Chalfont Valley's Christmas Fair on December 7th was a festive success, raising over £1000 for our school. The funds will go towards creating a new reading garden—a space where children can immerse themselves in stories and develop a love of reading.

The event brought the Little Chalfont community together in a joyful celebration, with highlights including craft stalls, games, delicious treats, and a visit from Santa. The support from parents, staff, and local businesses was incredible, from donating prizes to volunteering time and spreading the word. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the wonderful atmosphere. We look forward to hosting more community events next term, starting with our International Day on 7th February.

Stay updated on our journey and future events by following us on Instagram: [@eactchalfontvalley](https://www.instagram.com/eactchalfontvalley)

Chenies School's Christmas Fair

We are pleased that, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our school community, we had a highly successful Christmas Fair at the start of December. With this, the wreath making evening and the online raffle we raised £1383.50, which is just £30

shy of last year's total. The donations this year will be going towards supporting our forest school.

We will be having a Valentine school disco in February and continue fundraising with more bake sales and tuck shops next term! We will be joining in with Chesham carnival in June, any more fundraising ideas would be most welcome! Thank you!

Chenies PTA

A Christmas update from the Head of DCHS

Good old Dr Challoner's High School! We certainly know how to celebrate Christmas – we had a fabulous 'Challymas' (two weeks of festive events at the end of term) organised by our Head Girl Team.

Festivities were certainly on a grand scale. Christmas lunch was held across four sittings and enjoyed by over 500 girls and staff, who ate, amongst other things, 120 Vegan Wellingtons, 576 Christmas Stuffing Balls and 600 Christmas Cookies. I can vouch for it being lovely, as I volunteered to assist with the leftovers!

Kyla, the Head Girl Team and staff really pulled out the stops with our

ninth annual Challymas. My favourite events included the form room decorating competition, Reindeer Games, a Christmas market of over 50 stalls and the one and only Santa's Grotto (thanks to the Classics Team and their many elves).

Year 13 performed truly marvellous Christmas Entertainments for the whole school; our longest tradition, which has run every year since 1962. This was an all-time classic. In addition, our musicians and staff were on great form, including our Christmas Bash concert in school and a beautiful Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Amersham. The

annual Classics Saturnalia Quiz drew a big crowd and our Science team organised the staff Christmas Party Ceilidh.

As always, I am enormously grateful to all staff who work so hard to provide the best possible education and to our wonderful girls

who are such a pleasure to serve.

*Alan Roe | Headteacher
Dr Challoner's High School*



Little Chalfont Primary School

Edible Garden Project

The school has partnered with Cytiva in Little Chalfont to sponsor the community garden on the school site.

This partnership includes volunteers from Cytiva giving up to five days a year to help maintain the garden as well as helping with some of the building projects, including an outdoor classroom, hedgerow planting, construction of a polytunnel

to expand the garden and the funding of materials and resources.



We're grateful to Cytiva as this helps to enable the

long term stability of the garden as well as provide further opportunities for the children to learn about growing and nature.

Further information about the garden that Cytiva are sponsoring can be found here:

[https://
littlechalfontprimaryschoolamersham.secure-primariesite.net/edible-garden-project/](https://littlechalfontprimaryschoolamersham.secure-primariesite.net/edible-garden-project/)

*Rob Hacking / Headteacher
Little Chalfont Primary School*

Little Chalfont Evening WI

Inspiring women

Little Chalfont Evening W. I, continued to have a busy year.

Our annual President's lunch in August was at the Chiltern Open Air Museum with excellent hospitality and a guided tour. This was a huge success.



Our regular commitment to the village continues providing refreshments at the monthly Farmers' Market and running a craft stall there. Our gardening group have kept the triangle in the village looking beautiful providing topical displays, including ones for Remembrance Day followed by Halloween. The Christmas display also provided some humour and survived the battering of mixed weather (see photo on page 2)

We nominated one of our members, Shirley Strange, for the Proud of Bucks Award for the Amersham and villages section. Shirley is well known to many for all she does in the Village and received a very well deserved Highly Commended award for which we all congratulate her (see photo on page 3).

The WI held a Christmas Market in the village hall which included a range of stalls and activities, and we thank everyone for their support.



Our regular activities continue, including, the "eating out" group, the popular monthly pub coffee morning and craft group creating more wonderful clay sculptures. The book club and Quiz group continue to enjoy meeting on a regular basis. Our walking netball group meets fortnightly on a Friday morning. No previous skill is required, anyone

welcome, so please contact us if you're interested in joining.

We continue to invite a wide range of speakers to our monthly meetings. Recent topics included the History of Tattoos and the autobiographical life of a young Jewish boy in post war East London. At our lively 65th 'Birthday meeting' in October we were entertained by the Whitchurch Morris dancers with a ploughman's supper.



We meet in the village hall on the 2nd Tuesday in the month at 7:45pm: we welcome guests, so ladies, please come along and find out what we do. If you would like to see what we are all about, please do contact us by phoning:
Diana on 07747 042264 or
Karen on 07711 771387.

Diana Chatterton
Little Chalfont Evening WI



Simply Walk

Join us for a gentle walk with other people in your local area.

Our Little Chalfont group walks on Monday mornings, meeting outside

the Little Chalfont Community Library, Cokes Lane at 10.15 am for a 10.30am start.

Visit our website for full information and list of walks.

buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk

Little Chalfont Community Library

Regular film screenings

Three screenings of recent releases every month:

The Apprentice:

13th February at 19.30

All of Us Strangers:

17th February at 14.30, then 18th and 21st February at 19.30

Thelma:

3rd March at 14.30, then 4th and 6th March at 19.30

For future screenings follow:

[Events from February 7 - April 9 - Little Chalfont Community Association](#)

Free but donations welcomed.

To join the Little Chalfont Community Association, use this QR code. Subs cost £10 per annum.



Future food bank collections

8th February

8th March

12th April

10th May

9 – 12 noon Chenies Parade or
Cytiva car park