

# Parish District of Churton Cheshire

## Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter from Churton Parish Council. We hope you find it interesting and if there are any items that you wish to have included in future editions please do get in touch. Perhaps you want to advertise your business to people in the village, and for a very small consideration (we only need to cover the costs of our printing), your advert will go to every house in the parish.

**The White Horse:** The pub is finally doing food each day which is great news. The menu is small (but perfectly formed!), and is very reasonably priced, don't expect cordon bleu or silver service, but good wholesome food, which when you do not fancy cooking one night will really hit the spot. It is wonderful news that after such a protracted period of closure that Dave, Jackie and their family, are up and running. The new licencing hours have now been approved to enable greater flexibility of events for the new landlord. If we want to keep the pub in our village the local people do need to support them....use it or lose it. They are creating a really friendly, family atmosphere which means that you are sure to get a good welcome if you go in.

**Permission to cut down trees:** There has been quite a lot of tree feeling in the village recently and the PC reminds you that you may need permission from the planning authority to remove branches or fell trees on your property. If the tree has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) placed on it then you will definitely need permission to perform any works to the tree. A TPO is a written order created by a local planning authority. The aim of a TPO is to give protection to trees that provide amenity value to the public. It is a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree protected by a TPO, without the authority's permission. If the tree in your garden can be seen, and therefore enjoyed by the public, it may have a TPO placed upon it.

You can find out if the tree has a TPO by contacting the tree officer at the local council. To request permission to perform tree works you will need to fill in an application form and submit. If you live within the Conservation Area, trees in your garden are subject to the same rules as trees with TPOs, despite not necessarily having TPOs placed specifically on them. It is also important to bear in mind that it is illegal to fell trees during the bird breeding season, as it could result in the destruction of nests.

If the tree does not have a TPO and is not in the Conservation Area, then you do not require permission to fell a tree if it is in your garden. If you are in any doubt about the legalities of undertaking any works to a tree, then get in contact with the council's tree officer. Failing that, regional officers for the Forestry Commission may also be able to help advise you on the best way forward. Please remember that courts have the power to fine anyone contravening the tree regulations laid down in part 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and if you deliberately destroy a protected tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be fined up to £20,000.

**Hedgehog Champions:** Hedgehogs have declined drastically in number in the last twenty years, possibly by as much as 40%. They are such a delightful species which do no harm to humans and

will even eat some of the bugs that destroy your garden plants. Why not become a hedgehog champion and help them out this autumn? Before lighting any bonfires always check that there is not one there thinking to hibernate. They will hibernate in log piles, compost heaps or why not provide a hedgehog nest box. They need insulation so try to leave a few dead leaves around for them, and perhaps some cat/dog food to help them fatten up for the winter. A small area of 'wilderness' in every garden will bring in so many different native species and can even be made a feature of your garden. Hedgehogs will travel up to 2 kilometres a night so ensure that they can enter and exit your garden easily.



The indiscriminate use of slug pellets and pesticides in your garden can kill small mammals like hedgehogs, so please take care and become a 'Churton Hedgehog Champion'.

**Theft and crime:** Fortunately, we live in an area of the country where there is very little criminal activity and that can lead us to become complacent. Somehow this makes it seem so much worse when a crime is committed in the village. A survey of the Parish in 2017 showed that people generally felt safe in Churton, but that still means that we need to be watchful. A number of house break ins have occurred recently and a rise in incidents of poaching, so if you do see anything unusual, or anyone in the village that looks suspicious, remember to contact the police on 101. If you suspect that a burglary is in progress always dial 999. The Parish Council requested a visit from the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), to talk at the PC meeting and he was most informative but suggested that there was considerable underreporting of incidents and suspicious activity in rural areas and urged everyone to be vigilant. The Chief Constable has recently appointed a designated team of officers for rural affairs and wildlife crime to help with the problems. So remember keep safe and be watchful....you are not a 'nosey neighbour', we are looking out for each other, that is what living in a small rural community is all about.

**Churton History:** When you next walk around our village have a look for the Talbot Hound, you'll find him on the plaques on the properties around Churton and Aldford belonging to the Duke of Westminster and even some that don't belong to Grosvenor Estates now but once did. The sign at the Stud Farm has just been repainted and the Talbot has been given a lick of shiny gold paint. Talbot dogs were introduced to this country by the Normans as hunting dogs and are now extinct. The dog was added to the Grosvenor coat of arms in the seventeenth century along side the wheat sheaf or 'Garf' which was added in 1398. The Grosvenor Family came to England with William The Conqueror and have held the Eaton Estate since then. In the seventeenth century Sir Thomas Grosvenor, third baronet, married Mary Davies the infant daughter and heiress of a London Scrivener. And what did she inherit? A tatty bit of marshland in London! The thing is that



bit of land is now Mayfair, Belgravia, and Pimlico.

**Speed review:** It is a relief to know that a speed review is to be conducted on Sibbersfield Lane, something that your PC have been asking for, for some time. Hopefully this will highlight some of the issues of speeding motorists in the village and the local authority will have to address at last.

**Grosvenor Farms:** Some of your PC members were invited to attend a talk and tour of Eaton Estates land. This was a most informative session and we are very grateful to the estate for the invitation. It certainly answered many of our questions and helped us to understand better the workings of the in-hand farming enterprise and the wide variety of farming, environmental and land management that takes place. The visit also highlighted how Grosvenor Farms manage approximately 12% (650 acres) of the farm to support greater biodiversity and improve wildlife and environmental habitats.

If you have any concerns about practices of the farm or the visual appearance and how it may affect the landscape, the Estate would like to hear from you. Annabel Farbon the agent for Eaton and Halkyn Estates can be contacted on 01244 684628 or to the Eaton Estate, Eaton Estate Office, Eccleston, Chester CH4 9ET 01244 684400 or e-mail [www.eatonestate.co.uk](http://www.eatonestate.co.uk) .

### Events in the village:

6<sup>th</sup> Oct: Chester Marathon....residents note that there will be road closures on this day.

10<sup>th</sup> Nov: Remembrance Memorial....Once again this will take place at the new memorial by the village hall and will start with a short service and laying of wreath and attendees will then retire to the village hall for refreshments. You are welcome to bring with you a bottle of wine to get together with other residents of the village for a Vin d'honneur to commemorate those who have fallen in the wars. Please try and support this community event.

All parish council meetings are open to the public. There is a standing agenda item of fifteen-minutes at the start of each meeting to allow all residents to contribute or you can talk to one of your parish councillors if you want a particular item put on to the agenda for the meeting to consider. Details of the next meeting and minutes of previous meetings always appear on the parish notice board in Pump Lane and outside the White Horse pub or on the website. Also if you have a local history item that we could include in our future newsletters please get in touch. <http://www.churtonparishcouncil.co.uk/> .

### Contact details:

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<b>Councillor Alyson Thacker (Chair)</b>	<b>Stone Cottage, Pump Lane</b>		
<b>Councillor Richard Crump (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>Churton Hall, Pump Lane</b>	<b>Councillor Karl Cundill</b>	<b>The Cottage, Marsh Lane</b>
<b>Councillor Carol Hayes</b>	<b>Hob House, Hob Lane</b>	<b>Councillor Paul Kitchen</b>	<b>Ferry View, Stannage Lane</b>
<b>Councillor David Rudd</b>	<b>Church House, Pump Lane</b>	<b>Councillor Phil Thacker</b>	<b>Stone Cottage, Pump Lane</b>