

# Parish District of Churton Cheshire

## Newsletter

Welcome to the February edition of the newsletter from Churton Parish Council. The Parish Council Newsletter is a great way to keep residents informed about the issues which impact all of us who live in the village. The newsletter relies on you to keep the Parish Council informed about things happening in the village so if there are any items that you wish to have included in future editions please do get in touch. Business and community groups can advertise 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:** This is one of the few remaining community assets remaining in the village and if we want it to continue it is important to support the landlords.

Sunday Roast, Tuesday Burgers, Wednesday Quiz Night, Thursday Curry Night and Friday Fish Night with a take out service. A varied menu is also available through the week including lamb shank and a beef casserole what could be better for a cold winter evening. Call 01829 270850 to book and for further information.

**Theft and crime:** Cheshire Constabulary produces a newsletter each month for Farndon, Tattenhall and Malpas wards, detailing reported crimes in the area. We are so lucky to live in an area with so little serious crime and no crimes were reported in Churton this month. However, the latest newsletter does warn residents of the potential for courier fraud. This usually starts when a fraudster phones and claims to be from your bank, the police or other law enforcement authority. They then persuade you to reveal your PIN and card details. Sadly, the most common victims of courier fraud are the elderly

A scammer may tell you either that a fraudulent payment has been spotted on your card that needs sorting out or that someone has been arrested using your details and cards. You may be asked to call your bank using the phone number on the back of your card. This convinces you that the call is genuine. But the scammer has kept the line open so when you make the call, you're unknowingly connected straight back to them or their friends, who will ask you for your PIN or ask you to key it into your phone. **No bank or other legitimate service will ever ask you for your PIN.** The scammer then sends a courier or taxi to pick up the card from your home. Even the driver may not know that they are being used as part of a scam.

A different version of this scam is when you are contacted and told there is a corrupt member of staff at your bank, post office or bureau de change and the police need your help to identify them. They may ask you to withdraw a large sum of your money, which the police or bank will mark, then put back into the banking system. Once you hand the cash over, the scammers simply take it.

Another example is when a fake police officer phones or approaches you and asks you to buy an expensive watch or other high-value item, to try to find out if counterfeit goods are being sold. Once you've bought the item, the scammer tells you to hand it to a taxi driver for transfer to the police. The expensive item is, of course, taken instead to the scammer's partner.

The latest variation is where the scammer contacts you and says your bank account has been taken over and you need to transfer all the funds into a 'safe account'. Of course, the new account is operated by the scammers, who then steal the fund.

The police advise that to protect yourself to remember that:

- The Police will **never** ask people to withdraw money from their bank.
- They will **never** ask members of the public to assist them with operations.
- Hang up and wait five minutes before calling the police/bank on a trusted number on a different line (mobile / landline).

Report the matter immediately to the police on 101, or 999 if you think you have been contacted by a fraudster. Remember to stay safe at all times.

**Planning:** The Parish Council have reviewed a number of planning consultations on your behalf and have raised objections when it was felt appropriate. Details of these can be found on the PC website. It is important that if residents have issues with a particular planning application that they submit their objections to CWAC to support the letters of objection which are submitted by your PC. It is likely that the more letters of objection they receive the more likely they are to take notice.

**Micro-asphalt programme:** CWAC is engaging with a roads improvement programme over the next few months which may affect you. For locations and possible diversions please refer to the web site:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/highways/Micro-asphalt-programme.aspx>

**Litter Picker:** Over the past years the Parish Council has paid the caretaker from the Village Hall to collect litter once a week around the village. This was started as a result of a gradual build up of litter around the village especially on Thursdays following the bin collections. The Parish Council has benefitted over the years from various small grants and donations, which were used to fund the litter picker. Unfortunately the grants have now 'dried up' and we can no longer sustain this service. We are therefore asking everyone in the village to be vigilant. During windy weather especially, rubbish can escape the bins even before the bin lorries arrive. If you spot any escaped rubbish or litter please bin it!

**Eaton Estate:** The Eaton Estate and the Barnston Estate are traditional rural estates which own land and property in and around the village of Churton. Representatives from both estates periodically attend Parish Council meetings and welcome any queries that parishioners may have as to land use and land management on each estate, either through your Parish Councillors or via direct contact. Churton Parish Council welcomed our suggestion that the estates put forward items for inclusion in the parish newsletter and we look forward to doing so in the future.

The Eaton Estate (part of the Grosvenor Estate) arranged a visit for members of Churton, Aldford & Saighton, Eccleston and Waverton Parish Councils to Grosvenor Farms Limited's dairy unit at Lea Manor Farm last August. Attendees were given a short presentation from Mark Roach, Managing Director and Charlie Steer, Arable Manager on the aims and objectives of Grosvenor Farms and their current research into increasing the biodiversity and environmental aspects of the farm and were then given a tractor and trailer tour of some of the farm. The farm produces more than 70,000 litres of fresh milk a day and grows wheat, barley, oilseed rape, maize and grass on approximately 2,200 hectares of land. Approximately 12% of the farm (260 hectares) is managed exclusively to support greater biodiversity and improve natural habitats by planting and maintaining trees, hedges, grassy field margins, wild bird mixtures and game strips. For example establishing grassy field margins along the River Dee and its tributaries reinforces the banks, helping to prevent erosion and to stop slurries or fertilisers from running in to the river. Parts of the land are managed expressly to support some of the UK's rarest species of birds as well as being maintained as sites of special scientific interest (SSSI). The tour ended in the Lea Manor meeting room which has a viewing gallery overlooking the milking parlour. If any parishioners are members of local groups who would be interested in arranging a tour during the spring/summer then please contact Charlie Steer (01244 670161).

It is the aim of the Eaton Estate for our activities to contribute to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the communities we are part of. The successful delivery of landscape and environmental management involves leaving areas undisturbed, particularly to benefit ground nesting birds and field edge feeders; to that end and on health & safety grounds we respectfully ask that you ensure that you are keeping to the designated public rights of way and that dogs are being kept under close control. For our part, the estate is focussing on making sure these public rights of way are clearly accessible and will be working with CWaC to improve waymarking. 2019 was exceptionally wet so it does mean that paths are muddy. The CWaC website has a mapping facility which shows

where the public rights of way are located, see <https://maps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cwac/webmapping> and select "Add Data" and then select "Leisure and Culture" and add selected layers.

Annabel Farbon  
Agent, Eaton and Halkyn Estates

Direct line +44 (0)1244 684628

Eaton Estate, Eaton Estate Office, Eccleston, Chester CH4 9ET  
Telephone +44 (0)1244 684400  
[www.eatonestate.co.uk](http://www.eatonestate.co.uk)

**Stannage Lane Drainage:** The PC received a communication from a resident of Stannage Lane requesting that anyone in that vicinity still with a septic tank, but interested in lobbying for connection to mains drains, should get in contact. Please contact a member of the PC in the first instance for more information.

### Reminiscence of a Churton Resident



The Parker Family at Churton Hall Farm

Starting in 1945 just before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. I remember we had five farms, two shops and a cobbler who lived in New Lane, a Black Smith and a bus service which ran every hour both ways to Chester and Wrexham. One of the shops was also the Post Office they delivered the mail each day, a lady on a bike. It is now Four Ways. The other shop was the black and white thatched cottage in Stannage Lane, they used to sell groceries and the Chester Chronicle on Fridays.

There were no cars parked in New Lane only two people owned cars and they parked in Stud Lane.

One of my first memories was the celebration we had for the end of the war, we had a competition for the best dressed house, in the evening we had a fancy dress parade led by Churton Band, this was followed by a party and prize giving on the lawn of Churton House, home of Mr and Mrs Jones. We had a sports day and fancy dress every year on the field by Highway Farm and the highlight was the fair that used to come for the Weekend on the field where Walnut Close is now built. Lady Mary Grosvenor lived at Churton Lodge and she used to present the trophies at the end of the day. Great excitement!

We had no street lamps, no mains sewerage system, I can't remember the date they put it in but it was wonderful when we got it.

We had a chapel, a good Sunday school and there was a service in the Mission Hall where the bell used to ring. The children from the Sunday school used to go on an outing to Rhyll every summer.

We had two football teams, a ladies and a men's, they used to visit other villages for matches. We also played badminton in the village Hall and long mat bowling.

Everywhere we went we had to walk. We walked to Farndon to the Picture House once or twice a week and also to Farndon Church. Sometimes we went to the cinema in Chester on Saturday evenings and the bus was often full when it got to Churton, so bad luck, we couldn't go!

We were visited three times a week by a grocery van and a butcher and along with the vegetables we grew in the garden we were practically self-sufficient. There was a small black and white cottage at the bottom of Pump Lane where Plowley Bank is now, this is where the Land Girls who worked on the farms lodged during the war. In the stack yard of Churton Hall Farm there was a Jewish camp, we never knew where the residents came from or where they went after the war.

Everything has changed so much now, cars, television, computers. I still look back on the past and wonder... 'Were they the good old days?'

I hope you find this interesting.

**Village Hall:** You can hire the village hall for parties and other one off occasions or even for a regular club or class. Contact Karl Cundill on 07734 478893 for further information about the activities below or private hire.

Timetable	AM	PM
Monday	Ladies Keep Fit	Circuit Training
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Pilates (Starts 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 9.00am)	Farndon Brass Band Juniors
Thursday		Farndon Brass Band
Friday		

All parish council meetings are open to the public. There is a standing agenda item of fifteen-3 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. 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:**

<b>Claire Taylor (Clerk)</b>	<b>churtonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk</b>		
<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>

