

Twyford News

Twyford Parish News

Issue 3 / Summer 2024

Our Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Summer Issue 3 of our Parish Newsletter. At our recent annual meeting I was voted in once again as Chair for another year, I'm grateful to our team of Parish Councillors for their support. It's worth remembering that Parish Councillors are all volunteers, and we don't receive expenses or other reimbursement for the work we do. The day to day running of the council including financial matters is the responsibility of the Clerk, Jamie, supported by Sue, the Assistant Clerk.

It's not for Parish Councillors to make individual decisions but like a board of directors, we steer the Officers of the Parish Council in the way we collectively feel best represents the people who live in Twyford. If you would like to join the Parish Council, we are looking for 2 new councillors; we try to get a broad mix of people and so we would especially like to hear from parents of young families who might be able to consider joining.

What's On in Twyford

21st August Lawn Bowls Open Day
Roman Road, 10am - 4pm

Twyford Waterworks Open Days
7th July, 4th August, 1st September
All 11am - 4pm

Several concerts are planned to take place in St. Mary's Church - keep your eyes on posters displayed around the village

Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are held monthly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Gilbert Room in the Parish Hall.

Please check our website or TIS for the latest information in case of changes at short notice.

The next Parish Council meeting dates are:

Thursday 25th July

Thursday 26th September

Thursday 24th October

For information on local planning applications or other useful links, please visit our website:

twyfordhants.org.uk

Stop Press Don't forget
to vote on 4th July!



Ecology in Action

The return of one part of the Churchfield meadows to its natural state as a wildflower meadow is now under way. The meadow, lying between the River Itchen and the lower section of the footpath running from Churchfield to St Mary's, was bought for the benefit of the village by Twyford Valley Conservation C.I.C in December 2022, with the aims of conserving the meadow from an ecological perspective, and sustaining and enhancing biodiversity.

The meadow had been converted into dense grassland for feeding dairy cattle by introducing fast growing grass and adding nutrients to the soil, and so stopping other plants, and particularly flowering plants, from establishing. In consequence, biodiversity was diminished.

The re-establishment of wild flowers will require management, in order to degrade the soil and remove excess nutrients, and to keep the grass at bay to allow flowering plants to thrive.



South Downs National Park has now provided a ReNaturing Grant, to cover aspirations for the next few years, and works have started. One third of the meadow has been mown, with the cuttings going to compost bins, and yellow rattle seed has been sown to help degrade the soil, and some wildflower seed has been planted. The mowing is the first step in a cutting regime, to remove the grass in different zones at different times of the year, to enhance biodiversity.

With support and advice from the Biological Sciences Department of Oxford University, we will also now start taking soil samples and conducting plant and animal surveys to establish a baseline for the work and make sure biodiversity is improving.

Hazeley Enterprise Park Development Approved



Humphrey Farms Limited have been granted approval for the development of the western section of the Enterprise Park. The feed mill and the elderly buildings to the north will be demolished and replaced, under phased development, with light industrial units and offices in keeping with

those to the east. A small building, the hub, consisting of a café and meeting room is to be located in the centre of the Park and open to members of the public for use. The field to the south of the site will be used to bury contaminants from the demolished buildings, under strict control, and with planting provide water attenuation for the Park. Under agreement with HCC Highways, Humphrey Farms Limited is to provide £100K to assist the projected £250K cost the Parish Council (PC) faces for the planned pedestrian crossing near The Phoenix Inn.

While aspects of this development were supported by the PC such as the removal of the mill, it was extremely dismayed that the South Downs National Park promoted breaches in policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and ignored valid objections raised of potential harm arising from the development such as an increase in commercial vehicular movement, trucks and vans, through the centre of the village. Further the PC believes the contribution of £100K for traffic improvements to be totally insufficient for the size of the development.

Then and Now - Our village hasn't changed much, or has it?



Allotment Snippets

Nestled between Hunter Park and Park Lane, you'll find the 31 plots that make up the Twyford Allotments.

On first inspection they appear all different - some with sheds, others with greenhouses; some formally laid out with raised beds, fruit cages and freshly dug furrows; and others with wild areas and trees. However, and particularly in the peak growing season, one thing that unites them all is the enthusiasm and commitment of the green fingered allotment holders who can magically transform a single seed into an abundance of fruit, veg or flowers.

Growing and eating your own fruit and veg is ever more popular - it's fresh, seasonal and local and gives you a real sense of achievement. Being outside is great for your physical and mental well-being and you get real sense of community and togetherness.

There will of course be some lows - blight, carrot fly, aphids, pigeons, and much more. But not everything 'bad' that happens is a disaster – it's all part of the process and makes the successes even sweeter. Every season is different but we're having to cope with climate change which is making the seasons a lot less predictable and changing the way we grow our plants.

Whatever you decide to grow, just enjoy the experience, whether that's giant veg, edible flowers, exotic fruits or just the usual fruit and veg we're all familiar with. And if you need some friendly advice there's always someone there ready to help.

There is currently a waitlist for an allotment but they do become available from time to time so if it sounds like something you'd like to try please contact admin@twyfordhants.org.uk.



Action on Carbon in Twyford (ACT)

ACT is an independent group of volunteers, supported by the Parish Council, whose purpose is to promote best practice, educate and lobby on climate issues in Twyford.

We all know that Climate Change is a massive threat but did you realise the effect that it has on our important bee population?



We simply wouldn't be able to survive without bees - they're crucial to our physical health and the health of the wider environment. Bees pollinate our trees and wild flowers, which then support other insects, which then support birds, bats, mammals and everything up the food chain with food and shelter.

Climate change and the extreme weather it can cause disrupts bee nesting behaviour and alters normal seasonal timings, so flowers may bloom earlier or later than expected. Planting more trees is helping to mitigate some of the effects of climate change, but it's still a serious issue that could prove deadly for many of our bees.

So how can we help our bees?

Provide Shelter. Like most invertebrates, bees need shelter to nest and hibernate in. You can buy a ready-made bee hotel or create your own. Just follow this link for more information.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/

Energy Saving Tip

Stop Using Pesticides - you can make a big difference to bees and other wildlife by stopping the use of pesticides in your garden.

- a green Twyford resident says,

'A top tip for environmentally friendly gardening from the Woodland Trust suggests using a natural remedy soapy water spray for aphid infestation on favourite plants'

Hunter Park Fun Day

Sunday April 28th saw the village of Twyford gather together and celebrate our glorious Hunter Park which was first opened to the public 60 years ago. More information about the original opening can be found at www.twyfordhants.org.uk/hunter-park-at-60-years/



The sun also put in an appearance and everyone who attended was able to enjoy the many activities on offer in the warm spring sunshine.

These included a junior cricket match and tennis tournament, football training, Nia dance classes, treasure hunt and foot massages. The cricket club laid on a BBQ and playgroup

were able to raise much needed funds by selling drinks and cakes.

Other local groups involved included Guides and Brownies who organised an outdoor activity area, along with Forest school. Ruth Mawer kindly showed people how to use a pottery wheel and the musical entertainment was provided by the ukelele band, Sylvi & the Shedettes, and the B Natural jazz group.

However, the highlight of the afternoon was Twycrufts, Twyford's very own dog show. This was very well supported with many entries into the various categories including - Twyford's dogs have got talent, Best sausage catcher, Best rescue, prettiest bitch, most handsome boy, best fancy dress and dog with the waggiest tail. Following the success of the dog show we are looking forward to the possibility of another Twycrufts at Hunter Park next year.



Thank you to all the judges and everyone involved, especially Ingrid Percival ably assisted by Sue Cook in making the whole afternoon such a successful celebration of our wonderful park. These 2 hardworking parish councillors faced the challenges of the British weather in the lead up to the big day but took the view that (in the words of Freddie Mercury and Queen) - 'The Show Must Go On' - and it did!

Twyford St Mary's

It is a pleasure to write to you as the proud headteacher of Twyford St Mary's.

Twyford St Mary's is a Church of England school deeply committed to our children, parents, and the village community we serve. Our Christian values of courage, care, joy, and respect contribute to the well-being and spiritual development of the school community.

Through the doors of Twyford St Mary's, you will find a warm and welcoming school full of children with a sense of pride who are happily engaged in well-planned purposeful activities. The Twyford TEAM values permeate through the school and their positive impact continues to underpin all the work we do.



The children of TSM this year have experienced musical showcases, debate groups, sporting competitions, Shakespeare performances as well as a number of highly engaging school trips and residential for all to enjoy! Our pupils flourish through classroom and outdoor learning opportunities and of course through our wonderful connections to St Mary's Church, the Twyford Playgroup and the local Parish.

We achieved a wonderful accolade of the highest results in Winchester for last year's Year 6 examinations. From this, and other positive family feedback we continue to be a highly regarded and popular educational choice in the local Winchester area, with oversubscribed numbers for the last three years entering our Reception year.

There are some big changes on the horizon at TSM- a new head will be starting in September 2024! The recruitment process is underway and the governing body, the diocese and Hampshire are confident that the school will find a new and exciting leader!

Warm wishes,

Sophie Davies, Headteacher, Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Have Your Say!

All members of the Parish Council are keen to improve the infrastructure, services and facilities of our area. We all have ideas of our own which we are working through but we're keen to hear your views too. Please email the Parish Clerk with any ideas that you have and keep the conversation going by keeping in touch with your elected Council members and attending our regular drop-in sessions.

Getting in Touch

The Parish Council has a service called **Twyford Information System (TIS)** which provides information directly to your email inbox about social events, local charitable fundraising, road closures, local public notices, parish council news and meetings. Sign up today at www.twyfordhants.org.uk/intouch

The Parish Council has the **TPC Website** that contains extensive information including meeting agendas and minutes for the Full Council, Finance, Recreation and Planning committees. Plus lots of other content. Logon today at www.twyfordhants.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with news and meetings from the Parish Council by following the **TPC Facebook** page. Access this at www.facebook.com/twyfordhants.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Mitchell chris.mitchell.cllr@twyfordhants.org.uk

Councillors: Richard Sellars (vice chair), Chris Corcoran, Sue Cook, Angela Forder-Stent, Chris Hill, Stewart Hoad, Wayne Lawton, Jade Pain, Ingrid Percival, Steve Pullen

Parish Clerk

Jamie Matthews 01962 712361
clerk@twyfordhants.org.uk

Assistant Parish Clerk

Sue Nias 07881 036542
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