

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

June 5th is a date for your diary as the day that Hermitage will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Held at the village hall, fun events for all are being planned.

Another, closer date to record is Wednesday April 27th when the Annual Parish Assembly will be held at the village hall, 7.30 for 8pm. As it has not been possible to hold face-to-face meetings for the last two years there is quite a bit to catch up on. This year there is a very special guest speaker – Professor Sir Brian Hoskins CBE FRS, a meteorologist and climatologist of world renown. He contributes to the IPCC pronouncements on climate change, was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and sits on the UK's Committee on Climate Change. His talk promises to be interesting and informative and will probably leave you thinking.

Problem parking on Pinewood Crescent when a football match is taking place should now no longer happen. Arrangements have been made for football 'chauffeurs' to park at the school, with many thanks to the Headteacher for agreeing to this arrangement.

Planning applications discussed at the March parish council meeting were an extension to the rear of Wexford Cottage on the High Street, for which the response is no objections, and Cornish Cottage off Priors Court Road which was objected to, mainly on the grounds of the size of build. Of course the decision made by WBC planning authority is the one that carries.

Newly painted white roadside gates greet you now as you drive into Hermitage. Brambles have been removed and they look clean and fresh. But be warned, they will soon sport speed warning notices as plans to catch repeat offenders will soon be in action.

If you have a little time to spare and want to do a good deed or two, Downland Volunteer Group is looking for new drivers to replace those who've recently left. To find out more or to volunteer go to <https://www.downlandvolgroup.org/>



Planting wild cherry trees (with thanks to Greenham Common Trust) in the butterfly larder at Furze Hill. L-R Mike Sharp, Chris Genge, Ruth Cottingham and Andrew Mclarty.

Twenty-six volunteers from West Berkshire Countryside Society worked at Furze Hill to remove brambles and cut down Buddleia bushes on Eling Way, the only reward being cake. Any one wishing to join in with the next working party is welcome. Dates are published in Pathfinder in advance.

If you've noticed a good deal of cut trees and timber around Furze Hill, including in the exclusion zone, this is for two reasons; taking care of wind-blown trees and removing a good deal of Ash suffering from Ash Dieback. Sadly another 37 more trees need attention including felling, coppicing and some branch removal.

But new trees are being planted in the Furze Hill area and also in the burial ground where Silver Birch trees will find a new home.

In line with the new management plan for the area, the banks of the recreation ground will not be mown in the usual way but will be left until August to allow wild flowers to flourish.