

## NEWS FROM HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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**W**alking through Furze Hill woods is a delight at this time of year with wood anemones and lesser celandine scattered everywhere and bluebells beginning to show. Thanks to the upkeep from volunteers, this area remains a Hermitage treasure. The next visit from the Countryside Society is on 24<sup>th</sup> May if any one would like to join them and help. All volunteers are welcome, 10am at the village hall.

At the recommendation of the ecologist who drew up the new 10-year management plan data is being collected to put forward four trees in the woods as veteran trees for the future. They will be assessed by volunteers from the woodland trust to see if they are worthy of this protected status.

**A**n experiment with allowing wildflowers to bloom on the recreation ground banks with no mowing between March and late August will be evaluated later in the year.

**T**he April meeting of the council should have decided which company to appoint to install the new bus shelter at the stop opposite the school. There is still quite a long lead time from ordering the new shelter so it may not be in place until late August.

**S**ome antisocial behaviour has reared its head again with graffiti appearing on the lower side of Chapel Lane bridge and also signs of fires at Furze Hill. The latter is particularly worrying as everywhere is very dry at the moment. It was also very disappointing to see that wood for the fire came from the bivouacs, that had been carefully built by youngsters. Of course the whole of Furze Hill, including the recreation ground, is a no fire area. Also the closure mechanism for one of the entrance gates to the muga has been vandalised so it won't shut properly anymore. How this was done is a mystery as it must have taken a great deal of force to bend the thick metal; certainly not something done on a whim or in a hurry.

**P**lans are continuing for the village to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> with a family fund day at the village hall and recreation ground. Tea and cake will of course be there as well as a hog roast, a giant paella and doughnuts

all taking care of any hunger pangs though it's hoped people will come along with their own picnic too. The list of activities is growing but slowly. If you have an idea of something that always goes down well at a fete, please shout. It could be something you're happy to organise or just an idea. And it doesn't need to be available all of the time if you can only spare an hour or two.

**A**t its April meeting, the council will be giving consideration to the request from Cold Ash young football club that they have a shed permanently on the recreation ground in which they can store all of their equipment for matches and training sessions. It will be between the muga and the fence. Also, as the players are getting older they are advancing to a slightly bigger pitch. Blue lines will appear as well as the white ones, probably from September. It is vital that dog owners pay proper attention to their dog's toileting when on the recreation ground. It is the dogs who will be banned from the site, not the footballers, if dog fouling becomes a nuisance.

**T**he situation in Ukraine is probably on many peoples minds at the moment. If you are considering hosting a family feeling from their home, you may like to get in touch with a group set up by residents of Chieveley which is for people in surrounding villages to swap information. Contact HPC parish clerk for details.

This month the council meeting, which will include the AGM and election of officials, will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Adelaide room which is at the rear of the church. The council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce, on [HermitagePC@outlook.com](mailto:HermitagePC@outlook.com). The village web site can be found at [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk).

**T**he Annual Parish Assembly will have taken place when this is published but HPC hopes you were able to attend and that you found it a useful and enjoyable evening. Feedback is always welcome so if you have any comments or suggestions for next year please feed them back to the parish clerk.