



**Completed Culvert Work**



**New Headwall**

**Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council  
Newsletter Spring 2015**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall**

**Thursday 23rd April 2015**

**7.00 for 7.30 pm**

Under the Chairmanship of Cliff Archer,  
Chairman of the Parish Council

**WHAT HAS YOUR PARISH COUNCIL  
BEEN DOING? COME AND SEE!**

**OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN -  
QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION**

Chaired by Parish Councillor Andy Collins

**WHAT'S GOING ON AT THORNEY  
ISLAND?**

Talk by Tim Kenealy, Station Staff Officer.

Come and hear your District & County Councillors

(Free Light Refreshments will be served from 7.00 pm)



**Nutbourne East New Sign**

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**Chairman:** Cliff Archer (572839)

**Vice Chairman:** Andy Collins (572976)

**Councillors:** Linda Wilkinson (576701), Arthur Cooper (573625), Sandra James (572533), Mike Penny (573603) Ina Littlefield (573832) Barry Leighton (573371), Nick Hebden (576625)

**Parish Clerk:** Barry Mann (375865)



**New Bus Shelter**



**Completed Ditch Work**

## Parish Bus Shelters

The Parish Council supplies and maintains the three Bus Shelters on the Main Road. They are located at the Broad Road, Drift Lane and Chidham Lane junctions.

At Drift Lane, the very old, shed-like Shelter had to be condemned because of its dangerous and unhygienic state. In addition, it was located too far from the doors of buses when they had stopped in the layby.

The new Bus Shelter, funded by the Parish Council, is now in place – at a much more user-friendly location and with a seat. The Council has moved the bike lock-up posts to a better position nearer the Shelter and the posts themselves have steel-reinforced holes - for padlock chains - for improved security.

The Broad Road Bus Shelter is in process of receiving a new roof and both this Shelter and the Chidham Lane shelter will be repainted, most likely in 2016.

Finally, the Parish Council is investigating the possibility of installing a fourth Bus Shelter at Cot Lane, outside The Barleycorn. This position is much more confined than the locations of the three existing Shelters, but the Council will see what can be done to fill this gap in the provision of Shelters.

*Cliff Archer*

## Parish Drainage

Please see the article elsewhere in the Newsletter, written by our able and knowledgeable Parish Ditch Warden, Robin Yeld. This is a new appointment that formalised his many years of working closely with the Parish Council. The new relationship is going well and the Parish ditch system continues to improve with his guidance.

*Please see the photographs showing some aspects of the drainage improvement work undertaken by the Parish Council over last winter.*

An important part of the drainage system is the Catchpond in Chidham Lane. In the summer of 2014, twin-barrel culverts were installed under the lane and the Tidebank, draining the Catchpond into the Harbour. These replaced the small, defective south culvert. The new culverts have been tested by the winter rains and have proved to be very effective.

The Parish Council worked with the County Council's consultant on the assembling of surface water runoff data needed for the hydraulic design of the new culverts.

*Cliff Archer*

## Nutbourne East joins the Parish

AT LAST! It will have taken about 30 years, but Nutbourne East will finally join our Parish on Thursday 7 May 2015.

On this day, the residents of the 229 houses in Nutbourne East will be able to vote in the Elections for Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council. In April 2014, Nutbourne East came under our Parish for planning matters and the Council's annual precept; the elections this year will be the last piece in the jigsaw. Please see the article on *Parish Council Elections* elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Parish Council wanted to mark the important accession of Nutbourne East to the Parish and decided to do this in two ways:

First, a new oak Bench, complete with commemorative plaque, has been installed by the Parish Council in Maybush Copse. This replaced a bench that had been demolished by a falling tree and has a prime location enjoying a splendid view towards the Harbour. Second, a "Welcome to Nutbourne East" road sign, funded by the Parish Council, is now in place on the A259 at the new location of the Parish Boundary.

Not so long ago, the west Parish Boundary ran down the whole length of Broad Road and then down the long stretch of Cot Lane from The Barleycorn to the Poplar Footpath. Residents on opposite sides of these roads lived in two different Parishes – Southbourne and Chidham & Hambrook! This caused difficulties with planning issues, for example.

Flatt Road, Main Road and Maybush Drive, the three main areas of Nutbourne East, have at last joined our Parish and we welcome the residents living there with open arms! We ask them to join with the residents of the rest of the Parish and vote in the 7 May 2015 Parish Council Elections.

*Cliff Archer*

## The Village Malthouse (our Village Hall)

Probably built in the late 1830s, our Village Hall is an example of a "Floor-Malting" Malthouse. Malt is artificially germinated grain, usually Barley, and was primarily used in the production of beer. For the past 500 years it has been produced in purpose built Malthouses. Of the thousands built, only a handful survive that are still functioning for malting. To produce malt, the grain is steeped in water and then laid out on the floor to germinate. After around 2 to 3 weeks it is dried in the malt kiln. The characteristic feature of the malt kiln is the high pyramidal roof, which is so clearly visible on our Village Hall. The stone or concrete skirting of the germinating floor also still survives. *Continued on page 4*

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Chidham Malthouse is detailed on the Tithe Map and Assessment of 1846 and the 1841 census records John Laws as Maltster, living in the parish. The present Village Hall was part of a much larger complex of industrial buildings, which included Christmas Cottage. Although much altered, particularly when converted to our Village Hall, many of the original features still survive. In recent years much work has been done to renovate the building and the next phase of this work will be the much-needed refurbishment of the toilets. With a large proportion of the grant funds already secured it is hoped that the work can be carried out this summer.

*Steve Tanner* Chairman of Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall Committee.

## Parish Council Elections

**THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015** is an important day - when we have the Elections for Parliament, the District Council and the Parish Council. Although the Parish Council is last on this list, we do many things that are important to you, our neighbours – drainage and planning to name just two.

Increasingly, tasks that were once the responsibility of the County and District Councils are now undertaken by Parish Councils – the regular inspection and reporting of the condition of drainage systems, including roadside gulleys, for example.

Your Parish Council is a *Statutory Consultee* for planning applications in Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne East. We have to be consulted by the District Council on each and every application and account is taken of our views. As we all know, the torrent of applications has continued and in one month alone this year, there were 16 applications for the Parish Council to comment on in detail.

The Parish Council's workload has increased over the past few years. This was recognised by the District Council and the Parish Council's complement has been increased from 9 to 10 Councillors. This will increase the range of skills in the Council and reduce a little the current load on each Parish Councillor. Mind you, we are not complaining about the workload – we are all on the Parish Council because we want to help.

To find out more about what Parish Councillors do, contact any current Councillor. Even better, **come along to the Village Hall on 23 April 2015 for our Annual Parish Meeting** – details are given on the front cover of this Newsletter.

Finally, please be sure to vote in the Parish Council elections so that you get the Council **you** want. *Cliff Archer*

I regularly took her for her evening walk down Cot Lane in order to turn right at the first public footpath by the old oak to cross the fields to the foreshore. I vividly recall accelerating past a rather old, overgrown and sinister looking field just south of Maybush Drive because it was so ugly and nobody seemed to know what went on there. Indeed, when they were little, my children thought it had a spell on it!

Compare that with the 8 acre site that is now Maybush Copse Community Woodland. Bought in 2006 by Chichester Harbour Trust with support from Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the Parishes of Southbourne, Chidham & Hambrook, and 180 individual residents. Its purpose: to safeguard the special landscape of the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and to create a nature reserve and open space for the community to enjoy.

And has it not fulfilled its mission statement?! Carefully laid woodchip paths, fastidiously maintained by teams of Volunteers and Friends, entwine the lovely central grass lawn where it will be fabulous to see families having fun and enjoying picnics when the weather improves very shortly. Our profound thanks to Stephen Johnson and his Committee under whose stewardship all this has been made to happen.

Personally I love looking out from the vantage points over Nutbourne Marsh, particularly at the penultimate one as you go West which contains our Parish plaque! Do please help me to remember to buff it up from time to time.

Spring is in the air, the birds are preparing for the breeding season and we have had good shows of snowdrops, violets and catkins. Camera traps operate on site to catch glimpses of rabbits, squirrels, deer and shortly slow-worms, grass snakes and other amphibians and reptiles emerging from hibernation.

Please visit the website to see photographs and a list of forthcoming events and attractions. Most importantly, come and enjoy your local Community Woodland! *Barry Leighton*

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The light is at the end of the tunnel. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been working tirelessly for 18 months and we are now working to finalise the re-drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan together with the supporting Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Report. This re-drafting will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting - for review and questions. *Andy Collins*

*Continued from previous page*  
 The first Friday in each month is lunch day, when we have coffee followed by fish & chips and puddings (these are always a surprise) – and then a cup of tea and lots of chat (all this for £5). Crisp white tablecloths and flowers on each table, together with ‘table service’ are provided by volunteers, who also prepare the surprise puddings. The fish & chips are of a high standard and are delivered in individual portions by an excellent, well-known fish & chip shop not far away from the Village Hall!  
 On the third Friday in each month, some of us go to the Bosham Inn and buy lunch there – again the social side is all-important and much enjoyable debate takes place.  
 If you think that either or both types of lunch might be fun for you, please ring me on 572839. *Delph Archer*

**Overgrown Hedges, Shrubs and Trees adjacent to Highway Footways (Pavements)**

The Parish Council has been made aware of several pavements within the Parish being obstructed by overgrown hedges or branches of shrubs and trees overhanging pavements. In some cases, pedestrians have been forced to step into the road to avoid overgrown hedging.  
 Recently some obstructions have been cleared by landowners but others have not.  
 This is a polite important reminder to confirm that landowners are responsible for ensuring that their hedges, shrubs and trees do not cause obstruction by encroaching onto or overhanging pavements.  
 It is important for the safety of residents that cutting, trimming and maintenance of greenery alongside pavements is undertaken on a regular basis by the owners/occupiers of properties to keep pavements clear for pedestrians and also wheelchair and mobility scooter users.  
 We ask that you all do your bit to keep the pavements in the Parish unimpeded and user friendly.  
 Landowners have the same responsibilities with regard to their hedging, shrubbery or trees which are adjacent to Public Rights of Way i.e. Footpaths, Bridleways, and Byways. *Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council*

**Maybush Copse Community Woodland**

It was a very different tale when we moved to Nutbourne 40 years’ ago. We had a Labrador then, as we have now, so when I was at home,  
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**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FOR RESIDENTS OF NUTBOURNE EAST**

(Flatt Road, Main Road, Maybush Drive, Pottery Lane, Langstone Gardens and the East side of Broad Road, south of the Railway)  
**WHEN YOU VOTE ON THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015 .....**  
 In May this year, for the first time ever, you will be able to vote for Parish Councillors in the Parish of Chidham & Hambrook.  
 However, at present, there is an anomalous voting situation for residents of Nutbourne East. Below is a copy of an email reply to me from Diane Shepherd, Chief Executive of Chichester District Council:

*“The [District] Council is responsible for changes to parish boundaries only, and in February 2013 it approved the transfer of 229 properties from the Parish of Southbourne to the Parish of Chidham & Hambrook. For the forthcoming parish elections the electors in these properties will be voting for Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council candidates.*

*The [District] Council has no powers to change ward boundaries - this lies with the Local Government Boundary Commission. Hence the ward boundary for the 229 properties has not changed and electors in these properties remain in the Southbourne Ward for District elections . A request was made to the Local Government Boundary Commission but was not granted. However, we are in the process of agreeing a whole district review of ward boundaries with the Local Government Boundary Commission and hopefully this anomaly will be resolved in the near future”.*

The last ten words of Diane Shepherd’s email above are heartening. The Parish Council calls upon our District Councillors (Southbourne Ward and Bosham Ward) to do what they can to persuade the Local Government Boundary Commission.  
 The District Councillors for Southbourne after the elections will be invited (along with the Bosham Ward Councillors) to attend our Parish Council meetings to represent the residents of the 229 houses that have transferred from to Southbourne Parish to Chidham & Hambrook Parish – until the anomaly has been rectified.  
*Cliff Archer,*

## Notes From our Ditch Warden

Since the very damaging floods of January 1994, I have been working with the Parish Council and many landowners to try and facilitate the maintenance of our wonderful and sensitive drainage system.

Last year I proposed to the Parish Council that a Ditch warden be appointed; this was to formalise the post, to ensure that there was always someone to call, someone who knew how most of the system worked, and someone who could act as a go between on behalf of the Parish for the many parties involved.

Last autumn I was appointed, and a very basic remuneration package was agreed of £420 per annum. My duties during the winter are to check the main arterial ditches every month, walking them, looking for issues that may or are causing problems for properties. I am also tasked with clearing minor blockages. I then report back to the PC if there are any new issues that are outside my scope. I am also involved in the surveying and planning of new ditch clearing programs, talking with contractors, land and house owners. Much of my other work is to keep the subject of drainage as an important and current issue. I feel that unless there is a catastrophic event, no houses in Chidham should be flooded for the foreseeable future, if we can keep drainage as a high priority.

This year we have renovated around 1600 metres of ditches, with the main intention of following advice from consultants funded by WSCC, of steering water away from flowing to the overloaded catch pond on the east side of the peninsula, and sending it to the west to drain into the sea, west of the poplars half way down Cot Lane. This very large series of projects has been financed through our successful application to Operation Watershed, a WSCC initiative to help Parishes help themselves.

At the moment we are looking at five more areas of the Parish, from the top of Hambrook, Broad Road, Maybush Copse, and Flatt Road, and the top of Chidham Lane, all of which need attention. Hopefully these will get worked on later this year.

It is very important to remember however, that if you have a ditch outside your property, then it is most probably YOURS, and therefore your responsibility to keep clear. Let's all work towards keeping our wonderful ditch system clear, and helping it to keep us and our properties dry.

*Robin Yeld*

Parish Ditch Warden

## FINCH

In 2005 a Parish Plan was drawn up for Chidham and Hambrook. It identified the need for volunteers to help with social and environmental issues in the villages. With these requirements and the need to help elderly people and others with mobility problems, FINCH was born.

The name FINCH was chosen being an acronym for Friends in Nutbourne, Chidham and Hambrook and a small bird was chosen as the emblem. A number of volunteers set up a Committee and with the assistance of Chichester District Council, FINCH became a working group in the area.

People wishing for assistance could contact a dedicated FINCH mobile phone held by a member of the Committee. To give confidence to those using the service, all volunteers would live locally and have CRB or Vetting and Barring clearance.

So, FINCH became a community group aiming to bring together people of all ages and ability, to befriend those members of the local community who needed support. On 28 October 2008, FINCH received the Chichester District Council Small Sparks Project of the Year Silver Award. FINCH continues to offer practical assistance and remains a not-for-profit organisation.

The tasks undertaken by the, currently fifteen, willing volunteers vary considerably. The principal requests are for lifts to and from doctors, hospitals and opticians. Other tasks have included help in filling in forms, changing light bulbs, hanging a blind to make the television more easily viewed, emergency repairs to a toilet seat, the removal of debris from a blocked stream and odd jobs in the garden. In 2014 volunteers spent a total of 263 hours helping members of the local community.

Coffee mornings and social outings are arranged each year and an interesting speaker, or speakers, are invited to give a presentation after the business part of the Annual General Meeting.

Contact FINCH is 07775-942399. *Harry Bates*, Chairman of FINCH.

## CHALKS Lunches

Did you know that we have a Community Lunch in the Village Hall each month? The group is called CHALKS, which means a lunch club for all comers, especially seniors. We have fun and people say that the social interaction is just what they need! *Continued on page 8.*