



## Garden project working morning

As reported in August's newsletter last year, the parish council has secured a grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council Climate Action Fund. The application was made in conjunction with the school gardening club and the money will be used to fund the regeneration of a patch of garden to the side of the play area adjacent to the pre-school.

This project has three principal aims.

1. Firstly, to rejuvenate the garden, transforming it into an area that promotes ecological restoration, allowing people to spend time in nature and appreciate the many benefits the natural world gifts us.
2. Secondly, to support and enhance the educational and developmental opportunities afforded by the school gardening club by involving the children in the design and construction of the garden, assisted by the club's staff and volunteer supervisors. Once restored, the children will continue to tend to the area.
3. Thirdly, to incorporate features into the garden, such a lectern display board, that provide information on the vital role played by plants and gardens in tackling the climate crisis.

To kick things off, we are having a working morning on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, during which we will be starting on clearing the site. We will be meeting at the play area next to the pre-school, adjacent to Joyce's Road from 10am until around lunchtime.

Please bring any gardening equipment you have handy (spades, forks, gloves, kneelers, etc.). And don't forget something to drink and a slice of cake to share at tea-break time! If you have any questions, you can contact Kevin Middleton ([kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com), 01367 718395).

## Local elections – photo ID

Please remember that you will need photo ID to vote in the local elections on Thursday 4 May. Acceptable forms of ID include a UK passport or driving licence, an older person's or disabled person's bus pass funded by the UK government,

or an identity card with a Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) hologram. For a full list of acceptable ID see <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>. You can use photo ID that is out of date as long as it still looks like you.

If you don't have an acceptable form of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate but you must do this by 5pm on Tuesday 25 April. You can do this online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. Alternatively, you can apply by post to Vale of White Horse District Council, who can be contacted on 01235 422422.

## Fruit tree planting

Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help us plant the next batch of fruit trees in what will eventually become a community orchard at the far end of the QEII Field (the field opposite the football club at the end of Cottage Road).

We planted another 10 trees which should provide a variety of native fruit for passers-by to pick and eat as well as helping to enhance local biodiversity.

Unfortunately, some of the first batch of trees have not fared that well, we think due to vole damage. For this next batch of trees, we will be changing the management regime to keep the grass in the vicinity shorter and we have also strengthened the tree guards we are using to try to ensure a better result this time round.

## Roundabout

We are aware how frustrating the situation with roadworks at the Ware Road/Farm Piece/A417 roundabout has been, particularly with the lengthy period when no work was being carried out.

A couple of weeks after the digging started, it became apparent that there was an issue with the David Wilson Homes' design of the drainage works, which meant that work had to stop whilst this was addressed. Due to how far the work had progressed, it was not considered feasible to reinstate the road in the meantime.

A new design had to be prepared and approved by the county council before work could restart – hence the lack of progress for a number of weeks. Although the parish council has no formal responsibility for the management of the works, we have been very active in trying to ensure that disruption to residents is minimised. We have been chasing for regular progress updates and have requested sight of the project plan so that we can monitor progress now work has restarted. At the parish council's insistence, an operative has been stationed at the traffic lights during peak hours to manage traffic flow and the lights have been upgraded to include a motion sensor to help with traffic management the rest of the time. We'll continue to monitor the situation and do what we can to ensure efforts are being made to reduce disruption as far as possible.

### **Thames Valley Police Community Fund – grant success**

The parish council has been successful in an application it made recently to the Thames Valley Police Community Fund. The fund exists to support voluntary and community groups that help to prevent crime and keep communities safe. The parish council has been awarded £1,000 towards the purchase and ongoing costs of a covert camera that will be used to identify fly tipping and anti-social behaviour on parish council land, such as the Millennium Green. The camera will only be used in a targeted manner, and not routinely, and only in areas where there are persistent, regular problems, such as the fly-tipping of domestic and DIY waste.

### **Broken glass on the Millennium Green**

Unfortunately, we are still finding broken glass on the Millennium Green. The green is used regularly by children from Stanford in the Vale school and inconsiderate and reckless behaviour like this clearly presents a risk to the children. If you are one of the people doing this, please take a moment to consider that your actions may lead to a small child being injured. Instead, please place any bottles in the bins provided. If the problem persists, we will consider the use of our covert camera to identify the culprits and pass any evidence on to the relevant authorities.

### **Marlborough Lane Footbridge**

The parish council has installed some anti-slip treads on the footbridge at the end of Marlborough Lane as we were concerned that the

bridge could become quite slippery, particularly in wet weather. We hope this helps to improve residents' access to the network of footpaths in this part of the village.

### **Kevin Middleton**

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

[kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com)



## **PPC News**

There is something very heart-warming about wandering around the Village and seeing evidence of how PPC contributes to the fabric of Stanford in the Vale.

Aladdin and his/her colleagues sounding loud and clear through the Dramatic Society's new sound system. The Open Mic performers also booming loud and clear. Why not go for a walk and see if you can spot any of our 4 defibrillators?

The Church clock has shiny new motors for the time and the chimes. Still a work in progress as the pesky pigeons keep trying to adjust the time! I am afraid you can also blame us if you are blinded by the floodlights on the football field but the players are happy to be able to train all year round.

Both the Primary School and the Pre-School are happily supported and an often heard comment around the Trustee table is 'if it's good for our kids then let's just do it'!

The common theme with all the grants we give is that there is a lasting and/or visible benefit to the Village. A rebuilt Church roof, new books, equipment to help organisations attract and support more residents. We continue to welcome grant applications from small groups or large organisations who need assistance to deliver tangible capital benefits to the Village.

Check out some of the projects we have supported and see the grant guidelines at: <https://ppcstanford.org/projects>

We also have two Trustee positions vacant so would welcome inquiries from those who would like to join us. It involves approximately 4 meetings a year and some ongoing correspondence in between those meetings. If you think you might be interested in contributing, please make contact with us either at [info@ppcstanford.org](mailto:info@ppcstanford.org) or by filling in the application Form at:

<https://ppcstanford.org/contact>  
<https://ppcstanford.org/contact> I will be happy to give you more details about what we do and how we do it.  
 Wishing you all a Happy Easter

**Caryl Oliver**

**Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale**

[Caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org](mailto:Caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org)



### Have a Street Party to meet your neighbours and celebrate the King's Coronation.

As you read last month the Parish Council would like to invite you all to join in the Coronation celebrations of his Majesty the King by organising a street party for your local community. This will be chance to meet your neighbours in a fun way and an opportunity for all to join in.

This could be held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, possibly on a local green space, whichever suits your local residents best. Next month we will publish a list of when and where the street parties are being held so that if there is not one being organised near you, you could join in one of the others. It is our wish that no one should feel excluded from this village event and so feel free to contact Janet to either get involved or to get details about a street party local to you.

**We are now needing volunteers** to organise and co-ordinate a party in an area of Stanford near where you live. If you are interested, please contact Janet Warren – [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) or 07891013114 giving your contact details - e mail/ phone number for further information and publications to help you.

Coronation Party Packs will also be available which may include paper plates and cups, serviettes, tablecloths and some bunting.

We also want to set up a **Village Decorated Window Trail**. Decorate a window with a royal theme and be added to a map for people to discover as they follow the trail, Contact Karen if you wish to join the trail, so that a map showing where all the decorated windows are, can be shared with everyone - [karenboylesitv@gmail.com](mailto:karenboylesitv@gmail.com)

**WE NEED YOU** to make all this happen – get in contact with Janet and Karen.

### National Trading Standards Scams Team

The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team helps tackle mass marketing scams and disrupts the operations of perpetrators behind mail scams. It works in partnership with agencies across the country to identify and support victims of mass marketing fraud. The team provides guidance, best practice and establishes a centre of excellence to assist local authorities in supporting local victims and taking local enforcement action.

#### Our Team in Action

[Friends Against Scams](#) is an NTS Scams Team initiative that aims to prevent and protect people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams. It is designed to inspire action, highlight the scale of the problem, change the perceptions of why people fall for scams and make scams a community, regional and national topic.

Anyone can be a Friend Against Scams and make a difference in their own way. With increased knowledge and awareness, people can make scams part of everyday conversation with their family, friends and neighbours which will enable them to protect themselves and others.

Anyone can learn about the different types of scams and how to spot and support a victim by attending a Friends Against Scams awareness session; these are run across the UK. Alternatively, you can complete an online learning session in the comfort of your own home, at work or wherever is most convenient for you. The online learning is available as an interactive version or as a video, so you will be able to learn about scams in a way that suits you. Find your nearest session or the online training [here](#).

#### Reporting scams and getting advice

If you have made a payment in response to a scam, **contact your bank as soon as possible**.

In England and Wales:

**Report** – contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

**Advice** – contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or 0808 223 1144 for a Welsh speaking advisor.

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<b>Cllr. Chantelle Dabek</b>	-	<b>07482 850629</b>
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