



## Churt Parish Council Newsletter February 2021

### COVID-19 Update

The following are extracts from our MP Jeremy Hunt's constituency newsletter of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Though rates are still high, it is very encouraging news, but we must not drop our guard. Many of us will now have received the first vaccine but we must continue with the lockdown restrictions until things are really under control.

"There have been **5,589** confirmed cases in Waverley and sadly **237** confirmed deaths, with an estimated **224** active cases in Waverley, significantly down on last week." This data was accurate as of 11am, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

"The R Number has fallen below 1 in the UK for the first time since July. According to SAGE, it is estimated to be between **0.7 and 0.9**. This is brilliant news and means - bluntly - that lockdown and vaccinations are working. More specifically, in the last 7 days coronavirus cases are down **28%**, hospital admissions were down **26.5%** and deaths across England were down **25.5%**". This data was accurate as of 11am, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Whatever your political leaning, I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Jeremy well following his fall where he badly broke his arm. He has now had the necessary surgery to fix what was a complicated fracture.

### Vaccination scams

Please continue to beware of vaccination scams. When it is your turn for vaccination, you will receive a call or letter from the NHS who will never ask for money or bank details.

### Pavilion and playground maintenance

We have decided to take advantage of the Covid lockdown and have the pavilion decorated and to have a major overhaul of the zip wire in the playground. The pavilion is

of course currently closed so no-one will be inconvenienced by the redecoration. There will be no need to close the playground whilst the zip wire is being overhauled as the manufacturers will tape it off whilst the work is undertaken. Both works are scheduled to take place during March.

Please remember that the playground is operating in a Covid secure way and notices are in place.

### **Churt Environmental Working Group (CHEWG) Report**

Councillor Myra Johnson and her "team" have been busy again and are delighted to report that the first five of Michael Stenning's "Ten Walks in and around Churt" (which he published in booklet form in 1994) have all been rewalked, revised, digitised and published on our website at <https://www.churt.org/countryside-walks> . Michael (our long-term retired village postmaster) has enjoyed rewalking them in his study and we hope that you will enjoy walking them for real. Walks 6 to 10 are well on the way to being published.

When not out walking, CHEWG members have been hard at work pulling together content for our brand new website [www.churtzero.org](http://www.churtzero.org) . This sister website to [www.churt.org](http://www.churt.org) is designed to bring you in depth content to support our **Net Zero for Churt** programme. It presents locally tailored information and toolsets to help us all in meeting the challenge of reducing our carbon emissions to achieve the Net Zero climate emergency target. It is a long term programme - the deadline is 2050 - but the sooner we get there, the better! The website will grow and change through time. As well as bringing you tips and guides on how to reduce your household carbon emissions and increase the biodiversity of our local environment, it will bring you news of local projects as they are launched. We hope you will take part in these and that you will also share your success stories.

A big thank you to the Old Kiln project team for restoring the gate onto the Old Kiln Lane footpath which has been lying on the ground for some time.

### **Community Orchard**

At our meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February the Council resolved to develop the rough piece of grassland adjoining the tennis club on the left hand side when entering the recreation ground from the main road. We shall arrange for the scrub to be cleared and the area re-turfed with a view to then planting a number of apple trees to create a small community orchard. The first phase is to get the clearance work and re-turfing done and then we can consider how best to create the orchard with involvement of the wider community.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Weds 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm. These meeting will be conducted by virtual means.