

Chillaton Newsletter

No. 4: 17th December 2012

This edition of the newsletter contains;

1. Oil syndicate for Chillaton
2. Suggestions for content for the website
3. Reaching out
4. Christmas and New Year collection dates
5. Next Parish Council meeting

1 . A heating oil syndicate for Chillaton.

We have had a request on the website to look into the possibility of setting up an oil syndicate for Chillaton and the surrounding area. With the price of oil ever climbing and with Chillaton unlikely to benefit from any local fracking activity in the near future, it is becoming increasingly important that we try to buy our oil for the lowest price possible.

Some of you may be aware that we already have a number of options for getting the best price for our oil in the community, these include;

Boilerjuice - (www.boilerjuice.com) The aim is to try to reduce costs by buying in bulk with people you don't know – Boilerjuice tell you when someone else in your area is buying oil and hopefully if you can buy at the same time, you get a discount. It does work, but you can't be sure how many other people have bought at the same time, so you don't know the final price until after you have ordered and paid (you get a refund if the final price is lower than you paid)

Monthly Payment Schemes – Keltic Fuel (www.kelticfueloils.co.uk) (other suppliers may be available) have a scheme which allows you to pay monthly in instalments over the year, they pay interest on any credit and you pay for the fuel at the rate that is prevailing at the time of your order.

Haggling! – Chillaton residents who have the time and the patience have reported good discounts by calling multiple suppliers and trading them off against each other to get the best price.

However, for those of you that don't fancy any of the above, Richard Searight has for some time been running an oil syndicate for the area and now that we have a mailing list and a new website, we are proposing to publicise the syndicate a little more. The more people that buy, the more savings we all make.

The syndicate normally buys 4 times a year, in July/August, November, February and April /May. When we are approaching a buying point, we will send out a reminder email and put an oil order form on the website. If you want oil, fill in your details and how much you want and Richard will

order for everyone. The supplier will contact you to arrange payment and delivery. You can join in, or order on your own, as you prefer. There will be no obligation to use the service.

Chris Beighton

2. Suggestions for the Website

The new website has now been up and running for a few months and feedback has been largely positive. However the intention is that this should be a website for the community, so with that in mind, the website group would like you to tell us what you would like to see on the site and we will try and shape the site to meet the needs of the people that use it. If you have any photographs, or your own reports about local events, or even an idea for a regular feature, then please use the contact form to tell us about it.

Chris Beighton

3. Reaching out

Our goal for the website and newsletter was to try to bring the village together by providing a means for us to communicate with each other more easily. However we know that there are some people in the village that don't have internet access, or don't know how to get to the web site. If you know someone who needs some help and would like to access the website, or needs a hand to join the mailing list and you aren't able to help them, then let us know who they are and we will try to help.

Also, if you know anyone who you think would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by hand, then let us know by using the contact page and we will endeavour to get a copy to them.

Chris Beighton

4. Christmas Refuse Collection Arrangements

Owing to the holiday season (and weather permitting) the refuse collections over the festive season will be as follows;

If your usual day is Thursday 27th December, your collection will now be made on Saturday 29th December

If your usual day is Thursday 3rd January, your collection will now be made on Saturday 5th January

Howard Asbridge

5. Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30 pm on the 9th January at Marystow Church Hall. The agenda hasn't been issued yet, but there will be some items discussed that, although they may not seem very exciting, could have an impact on Chillaton in the future.

Members of the public are able to speak on any issue they wish to raise, at the ten minute open session that is held at the beginning of every Parish Council meeting.

If you want to attend this or any other Parish Council meeting you will be most welcome. If you can't attend, but want to contact a parish councillor or make a comment on anything being discussed, please do so via the website.

Local Plans

A Planning Policy Officer from West Devon Borough Council will be at the meeting, to help us look at the different types of local plans we could produce for the parish. Local plans should reflect what local communities want to see in their area, but they also have to comply with national and local planning policies. The Parish Council will first have to decide if they want to produce any kind of local plan at all. Any type of plan would involve a lot of work for people who are after all, just volunteers. However, it seems likely that recent changes in national planning laws will mean that communities that don't have their own plans may be more vulnerable to having plans imposed upon them.

If they do decide to produce a local plan, the Parish Council will have to choose between a plan that has some legal status, but is more complex to produce and one that is simpler, but is just an expression of the community's views on the future of the area and doesn't necessarily have any influence.

If any form of local plan is to be produced, the public will be consulted about it and of course we will keep you informed via the website, village notice board, etc.

Community right to bid

This is a new idea; a part of the Government's drive to increase the amount of influence local communities have on decision that affect them. Basically, parish councils can identify things that they regard as community assets. They could be a village shop or pub or an open space or anything similar. If the Borough Council then agrees to put that asset on an official register, it cannot then be sold without the local community having the right to make a bid for it. The Parish Council, or a local community group, would have up to six months to make a bid, during which time the owner of the asset could not sell it elsewhere. However, the owner would not have to accept a bid from a community group if they did not want to, even if it was the best offer.

We need to think about what we value in Chillaton, that might need protection in future. If there are potential 'community assets' then we should ask the Parish Council to consider requesting that they are included on this new register. If you have any suggestions, please let us know via the website.

Howard Asbridge, Ray Brewer, Amanda Westcott (your Parish Councillors)

This newsletter will always endeavour to keep you up to date with the latest goings on in Chillaton, but for the latest news, keep an eye on the website at www.chillaton.net