

## **BURITON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **During the year 2012/13 the Parish Council has:**

- Helped coordinate the planning and preparations for a day of activities and celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – working with representatives of Buriton School, St Mary's Church, Buriton Events and other local groups
- Supported the Parish Plan team in its special project to produce the book about activities in the parish during 2012 – with a copy being made available free of charge to all households
- Provided funding towards the costs of 'Olympic medals' for all the schoolchildren in the parish (Buriton Primary School and Ditcham Park Juniors) who took part in a 'walkathon' in July to raise awareness for the parish's sister community of Dominase
- Worked with East Hampshire District Council to arrange for important repairs, costing £25,000, to be made to the village pond as result of lobbying in previous years
- Welcomed the drainage improvements and footway and highway re-surfacing in the High Street – something for which the Council has been pressing for 3-4 years
- Continued to replace stiles with kissing gates in a programme which has seen over 20 stiles removed in the last four years. The most recent stiles removed were those along the Clays
- Won a prestigious CPRE Countryside Award for the best Community project in Hampshire – for the Buriton Chalk Pits project
- Met with parishioners and representatives of Network Rail to discuss the idea of closing the crossing across the railway line with a diversion of the public footpath
- Published an 'Exploring Buriton' leaflet in conjunction with Hampshire County Council – suggesting three local walks; encouraging visitors to leave their cars at home; and promoting the village pubs and bed & breakfast establishments
- Arranged a popular Skate Park re-painting day for local children to help maintain the ramps and equipment
- Confirmed that a junior bike trail will be constructed in the parish, in the QE Country Park, for use by parishioners and visitors
- Worked with local businesses and others to successfully oppose a lengthy closure of Greenway Lane during replacement water mains works so that alternative arrangements can be fully considered
- Received sincere thanks from the Butser Ancient Farm for the financial contribution made towards its new visitor centre which opened in March 2013
- Worked closely with the Weston Residents Association – particularly on a number of Highways and Rights of Way matters
- Continued to explore ways of introducing high speed broadband into the village by liaison with the County Council and encouraging parishioners to respond to surveys

- Continued to manage the major Lottery Funded 'Chalk Pits' project with developments during 2012/13 including:
  - the installation of the heritage 'truck' feature – recalling the history of the site as a working environment
  - a successful 'Open Day' with a wide range of activities in April
  - other free events during the year: bug-hunting expeditions for children and families; a bat identification evening; a photography workshop; children's artwork sessions; classes in the Village Show and an exhibition in the Flora Twort Gallery; and a recent 'Chalk talk and walk' event
  - publication of on-line educational materials, an audio guide and the production of 'resource boxes' for local schools in partnership with the Petersfield Museum
  - the discovery of more, rare ('red data list') species in the Nature Reserve
  - installation of two more interpretation boards (at Black Bridge and Halls Hill)
  - installation of some steps into the main quarry bowl to deter occasional misuse
  - regular working parties of local volunteers to help manage and maintain the site
  - seeking funding to restore the old pond at the top of the site with disabled access
- Continued work to try to improve access to affordable housing for people with a close connection to the parish. Although there is a relatively large supply of affordable homes in the village (about 25% of dwellings) the Parish Council has lobbied the District Council and social housing providers to try to improve access arrangements
- Arranged for important work to be undertaken on the exterior of the Village Hall and worked with the Hall Management Committee to commission fire safety checks
- Requested the County Council to address problems of motorised vehicles using BOATs – including illegal use of BOAT 45
- Started to consider the idea of 'dark skies' status in conjunction with the South Downs National Park Authority
- Undertaken liaison with Bus Companies and the County Council about the bus service and begun to investigate the feasibility of a bus shelter by Huntley's scrap yard for the convenience of bus users
- Organised community litter-picking events in October and March, with particular thanks due to the Parish Clerk for making all the arrangements and coordinating the volunteers
- Encouraged the continuing development and use of the Community Website – with kind assistance from Ali Martin
- Studied all the planning applications made in the parish and submitted comments to the District Council, drawing upon the Buriton Village Design Statement which continues to help deter out-of-character development proposals
- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary's Church
- Agreed an unchanged precept for the fifth consecutive year.