**SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS**

You may have read recently that school budgets in England are facing breaking point after a combined £2.8bn in cuts and costs imposed upon us by the government. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has written to all Westminster MPs to highlight the plight of state schools in England who are suffering from these funding shortages which could result in putting teaching standards at risk.

This situation, combined with an urgent need to replace our interactive white boards, eleven in total, has left St Paul’s School in a position to have to turn to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and our local businesses and villagers to raise the additional funding needed. Other equipment, such as ipads, which we bought some time ago, is also starting to wear out and will need replacing.

The PTA is a very proactive group and has plenty of fund raising initiatives in place for this calendar year. However, our efforts are limited in how much we can raise in totality. If you, as an individual or as a business, would be interested in sponsoring some or part of this equipment, we would be most grateful.

Please contact myself via the school office admin@stpauls909.herts.sch.uk or tel: 01923 262340 if you feel that you are able to help, or for further information. Many thanks.

Caroline Moore, Headteacher
St. Paul’s C of E VA Primary School

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**FRIENDS OF CHIPPERFIELD COMMON**

Our next meeting is on **Saturday 14 April 9.15am** for some work around Manor Pond and surrounding glades.

**Meet at the main car park by the cricket field.**

For further details, contact Vanessa Johnson, Dacorum Borough Council, 01442 228844 or email vanessa.johnson@dacorum.gov.uk

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**ST PAUL’S CHURCHYARD**

**WORKING PARTY**

Saturday 28 April 9am - 1pm
Bacon butties and drinks provided
We need volunteers to polish up the inside of the church and to spruce up the outside for the spring and summer months.
Please bring tools, gloves, etc.

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**CHIPPERFIELD CARE**

has invited

**AGE UK**

to speak to us before our

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday 24 April at 7pm
St Paul’s Parish Room

We invite anyone from the Village who is involved in the care of the elderly or infirm to join us at 7pm when Age UK will be telling us about the help available, both financial and physical, to those people they may be caring for. Age UK will talk to us for about 20 minutes after which they will be happy to answer any questions. Anyone joining us to hear the presentation may then feel free to leave before we start our formal AGM.

If you could spare 3 or 4 hours a month and are considering becoming a volunteer for Chipperfield Care, either as a Driver or a Duty Officer (or both), you would be welcome to stay for our AGM to understand what we do and how we do it.

If you would like any further information, please contact:

Mark Jarrad 01923 268910

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**CHIPPERFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**RACE NIGHT**

Sat 28 April 7.30pm start
£8 a ticket including supper
Sponsor a race for your business £25
Sponsor and name a horse for £10, winning owners receive a cash prize plus a prize for best named horse.
Always a sell out and such fun, get your tickets asap! Contact:
Janet Newman - 0774 956 0422
James Bush - 0798 310 6669
CHIPPERFIELD VILLAGE DAY
14 JULY
This famous village event is now set for the 14 July and we are busy planning a fabulous afternoon and evening. There will be live music and dancing, and everything associated with a village fête including a tug of war, demonstrations, food stalls, beer and non-alcoholic drinks, just to name a few. Should you wish to raise money for a worthwhile cause, we are offering free spaces for local organisations
If you are a commercial stallholder or vendor, you are also welcome to come along and pay a modest pitch fee for the day.
Please contact: Francis West Mobile: 07872 552555 Email: Francis@westfam.co.uk

ST PAUL’S SCHOOL NURSERY
More numbers are needed
For the second year running, the number of applications we have had to our nursery have been extremely low. With budgets to education having been cut, it will be very difficult to financially sustain our nursery on current numbers. If you have a child who will have reached their third birthday by September 2018 and you would be interested in coming to have a look, please contact the school.
Tel: 01923 262340 or email admin@stpauls909.herts.sch.uk.
Caroline Moore, Headteacher St. Paul’s C of E VA Primary School

CHIPPERFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Tuesday 17 April
St Paul’s Parish Room 7.30pm
ROSSIE HARDY
Rosie Hardy founded Hardy’s Cottage Garden in 1988, based in Freefolk near Whitchurch in Hampshire and it is now recognised as one of the leading nurseries in the country. They have won 21 R.H.S. Chelsea Gold Medals. They stock over 1200 plant varieties including some rare species not usually seen in the average garden.
Rosie is coming to talk to us about ‘SPRING FLOWERING PERENNIALS’
She is planning to bring plants for sale. Tickets are available at Garden Scene or from committee members. £8 for members of C.H.S, £10 for non-members. The talk will be followed by questions and coffee.
****************************************************
Monday 14 May
Small Hall 7.30pm
MARIA COOTE
Talk and demonstration about ‘BEST PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS’
Maria was a lecturer at Capel Manor College and will be advising us on what plants to have in the garden.
No tickets are required and admission is free to members and £2 for non-members. The talk will be followed by questions and coffee.
If you wish to join our Society, the subscription fee is £2 per year. Please contact our Membership Secretary Kathy Ward at kathrynannward@goolemail.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH
Tuesday 10 April
THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HUGUENOTS
Sue Jackson
The lasting legacy of the Huguenots in England
Sarratt Village Hall
Coffee is served from 10.30am lecture starts at 11am. Visitors are always welcome, but we do ask for a small donation of £7.
For more information, www.TASRickmansworth.org.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Thursday 10 May at 7.30pm in the Parish Room
Guest Speaker, Giles Meredith, CDA HERTS (Community Development Action)
AGENDA
1. Chairman’s introduction, Cllr Harry Laverack
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2017, Cllr Harry Laverack
3. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year 2017/18, Cllr Harry Laverack
4. Council structure and areas of responsibility, Cllr Harry Laverack
5. Presentation of grant cheques to local organisations
6. Parking
7. Traffic Control
8. Guest Speaker, Giles Meredith
9. Meet your councillors
Cheese and wine served after
All are very welcome

CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Planning and Council meeting
Monday 16 April
in the Small Hall
7.15pm Planning, 7.45pm Parish Council
All residents welcome
Carole Butcher
Clerk to the Council
01923 263901
parishclerk@chipperfield.org.uk
www.chipperfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
The Parish Office is open 9am-12:30pm Monday to Friday in The Village Hall, The Common, Chipperfield, WD4 9BS.

COMPUTER COURSE
St Paul’s School is running another computer course for those of any age who want to improve basic skills. It starts on Wednesday 25 April, 3:15 to 4:15pm. Please contact the school, 01923 263182, if you wish to attend.

FLAUNDEN CHURCH TEAS
Do come and join us for tea and homemade cakes on Sundays, and August Bank Holiday Monday, until 28 October. We serve teas between 3pm and 5pm in the church room which is in the church car park. There are lovely views across the valley and friends to chat with.
We look forward to seeing you (and your dogs!)
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AWARDS FOR SERVICE
THE POPPY APPEAL
The local branch of The Royal British Legion is delighted that the following poppy collectors have received their well deserved awards.
- Bridget Brook: 10 years
- Doreen Durrant: 30 years
- Karen Melhuish: 5 years
- Mark Jarrad: 15 years
- Diane Strawbridge: 25 years
- John Utley: 30 years
- Doris Yates: 25 years

There are many other loyal collectors who will be due an award very soon, having completed many years service. Happily they are all willing to be out again this year, through all weathers, to ensure everyone is wearing a poppy. A very big thank you to you all.

ROUND LONDON CYCLING FESTIVAL
On Sunday 13 May Chipperfield will see nearly 2000 riders pass through the village as part of a 185 mile cycling event – the Dulux Trade London Revolution.

At Dulux Trade we are passionate about bringing colour to people’s lives. As title sponsor of this event we raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity and create the most memorable, fun-filled, colourful event in the cycling calendar.

With this in mind, we would like to invite you along to enjoy an afternoon of family fun, with food, stalls, games, inflatables and music. Please join us at Blackwell’s, from 12 noon – 6pm. If you would like to book a stall at the festival please contact Debbie Clayton at duluxday@gmail.com

CHIPPERFIELD CLARENDON CRICKET CLUB
We are looking for new players and members for 2018 for our three senior Saturday sides and two senior Sunday sides. We offer league and friendly matches for all ages and abilities.

The seniors, age 14 and over, are currently in pre-season training at Redbourn Indoor Cricket School on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-8pm. They will move outdoors on to the Common on Tuesdays and Thursdays from early April, run by our County coach.

If you want to join and train or play please contact our Senior Director of Cricket, Ian Grout on 07930 362031. Our Junior Section, Girls and Boys from 6 -13, train Sunday mornings under the supervision of club coaches and our Junior Director of Cricket Jon Hilman.

The sessions last one hour and are designed to teach our cricketers the basic skills of playing the game with the emphasis on fun and learning.

These sessions start on Sunday 15 April at 10am on the Common. For more information on the sessions please contact Jon on 07834 650273. The Juniors play league and friendly matches against other local clubs across four different age-groups.

Want to become a member of the Cricket Club? Drop in at the Clubhouse and enquire about membership of the Club, available from as little as £30 for an Associate Member that entitles you to members prices at the bar on every day of the summer when the Club is open for business.

TIME OUT MEDITATION AND WALK
Saturday 28 April
1.30 - 3.30pm
Everyone welcome
We will be meeting in St Paul’s church car park at 1.30pm to car share and travel to our destination.

The afternoon will begin with a time of meditation followed by a group walk, finishing with tea/coffee and cake. RSVP.

Please speak to Elaine, Fay or Yvonne. Tel: 01923 269888 (Elaine)
Email: yvonne.collette@sky.com

BINGO THURSDAYS BLACKWELLS
Eyes down at 8.30pm
Have a chat, a drink and something to eat with friends

PINTS OF VIEW
Pints of View provides a forum in which we can consider topical matters, aspects of faith, moral issues and dilemmas in informal surroundings over a pint of beer, a coffee or soft drink (we have a ‘buy your own drinks’ policy). At March Pints of View, we discussed the escalating problem of homelessness in Britain. Monday 16 April, 8pm, is the date of our next get together at The Plough, Belsize. Everyone is welcome. Come and consider how our world can be put to rights.

Bob Shearer and John Guy
The Churches in Chipperfield

**ST PAUL’S PARISH CHURCH**

www.hcsp.net

**Incumbent**  Rev. Michele du Saire  
The Vicarage, The Street, Chipperfield, WD4 9BJ  
e-mail: micheledusaire.hcstp@gmail.com  
Vicarage phone: 01923 265848  
**Church Wardens**  
Ian Chantrell 01923 269394  
07807 031235  
Alison Bush abush@cheshamprep.co.uk  
07598 816069

**NEW ST PAUL’S PARISH CHURCH**

www.hcsp.net

Incumbent  Rev. Michele du Saire  
The Vicarage, The Street, Chipperfield, WD4 9BJ  
e-mail: micheledusaire.hcstp@gmail.com  
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**Church Wardens**  
Ian Chantrell 01923 269394  
07807 031235  
Alison Bush abush@cheshamprep.co.uk  
07598 816069

**REGULAR SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY**

Little Angels Toddler Group  
Baptist Church, 9.30-11am  
(term time only)

**FRIDAY**

Choir Practice  
St Paul’s, 7.45pm

**Your needs - our prayers**

When you just can’t see what to do!  
Or life seems to be overwhelming you?  
We are happy to pray for you!  
We pray in the Baptist church for the needs of the community of Chipperfield and beyond.  
We want to do this because we believe God answers prayers and is always ready to do great things.  
Be sure that even if you want to give names, everything shared will be in strictest confidence.  
**1/3 of prayers answered positively in 5 months!**

**Four people** have got jobs as an answer to specific prayers.  
**Two healings** of serious and terminal disease.  
**Various illnesses healed.**  
**Witnessed** around a third of all prayers answered positively!  
**Text:** 07808 155470 (texts will be deleted once prayed for).  
**E-mail:** prayers@chipperfieldbaptistchurch.co.uk  
Or slip your request under the front door of the Baptist Church.

**ST PAUL’S AND HOLY CROSS**

**BENEFACT OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday 2 - 3pm  
Thursday 9.30 - 10.30am  
Friday 9.30 - 10.30am  
Contact details:  
holycrossstpauls@btconnect.com  
01923 264377  
www.hcsp.net

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Minister  Vacant

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY**

Father Richard Mway Zeng SDS  
01923 266177  
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ST PAUL’S AND HOLY CROSS

This year, April the first - April Fool’s Day! - is (was, maybe, by the time you read this) Easter Day. That we are hearing a lot from pulpits around the country about being ‘Fools for Christ’ and the like is no surprise. We can’t help it. But there is something about this which genuinely gives us freedom. We invest much time and effort in trying not to make fools of ourselves in front of... well, whom? in whose eyes? Sometimes taking the ‘sensible’ prudent risk-averse option; refusing to act in ways which may look foolish to others rather than following our path with integrity, can harm us at our very core, curbing the better angels of our nature. Whose example do we follow, after all? There was nothing prudent in dying on the cross.

And it is apposite that the feast of resurrection is in spring-time, with its burst of renewed, abundant life. On Easter Monday we have a tradition of pilgrimage to the Cathedral and shrine of St Alban for a joyous celebration of the Christ risen from the tomb. Several of us from the Benefice walk the eight-and-a-half miles from St Paul’s, but more generally it is rare now for pilgrimage to be taken seriously. Before the Reformation it was a common custom unforgettably preserved in English literature. I hope purists won't object to a modern (-ish) translation!

When April with his showers sweet with fruit  
The drought of March has pierced unto the root  
And bathed each vein with liquor that has power  
To generate therein and sire the flower;  
When Zephyr also has, with his sweet breath,  
Quickened again, in every holt and heath,  
The tender shoots and buds, and the young sun  
Into the Ram one half his course has run,  
And many little birds make melody  
That sleep through all the night with open eye  
(So Nature pricks them on to ramp and rage)-  
Then do folk long to go on pilgrimage,  
And palmers to go seeking out strange strands,  
To distant shrines well known in sundry lands.

Of course in Chaucer’s time there was no option but to walk: few had even a horse. Nowadays ‘pilgrimages’ consist, with few exceptions, in a few hours in the air and by car. Have we lost the idea of the shared journey, meeting fellow travellers on the way; praying together; telling our life stories; getting to know others whom we encounter; making those encounters count? It is not just about the arrival at a ‘sacred’ place, but about our journey together, undertaken with open eyes and attentive ears through both sacred and desecrated places. If we travel with others and more slowly, we do see more clearly the effect we have on the world around us.
DIARY OF SERVICES AT ST PAUL’S AND HOLY CROSS

APRIL

Tuesday to Thursday of each week
8am  Morning Prayer       St Paul’s
Sun 1 (1st Sunday)  Easter Day
5.45am  Sunrise Service    Holy Cross
10am  All-Age Easter Communion St Paul’s
10am  Family Easter Communion Holy Cross

Mon 2
9.30am  Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey from Sarratt and Chipperfield

Sun 8 (2nd Sunday)
8am  Holy Communion       St Paul’s
10am  All Age Worship      St Paul’s
10am  Holy Communion and Childrens Church Holy Cross

Wed 11 (2nd Wednesday)
10am  2nd Wednesday Holy Communion Holy Cross

Sun 15 (3rd Sunday)  3rd Sunday of Easter
8am  Holy Communion       Holy Cross
10am  Benefice Communion   St Paul’s
11.15am  Annual Parochial Church Meeting St Paul’s
6.30pm  Compline (traditional night prayer) Holy Cross

Sun 22 (4th Sunday)  4th Sunday of Easter
8am  Holy Communion       Holy Cross
10am  Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) St Paul’s
10am  Open House Family Service Holy Cross

11.15am  Annual Parochial Church Meeting Holy Cross

Sun 29 (5th Sunday)  5th Sunday of Easter
10am  5th Sunday Service See Church Notice Boards

MAY (first part of month)

Tuesday to Thursday of each week
8am  Morning Prayer       St Paul’s
Sun 6 (1st Sunday)  6th Sunday of Easter
8am  Holy Communion       St Paul’s
10am  Benefice Communion   Holy Cross

Thurs 10
8pm  Rickmansworth Deanery Service Christ Church, Chorleywood

Sun 13 (2nd Sunday)  Sunday after Ascension Day
8am  Holy Communion       St Paul’s
10am  All Age worship      St Paul’s
10am  Holy Communion and Childrens Church Holy Cross

DIARY OF SERVICES AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL

Sun 1  Easter Sunday
Sun 8  TBD
Sun 15  Brian Pratt
Sun 22  Ian Chantrell
Sun 29  Informal Service

All services are at 10.30am with Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, unless otherwise noted

SERVICES AT OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR

Sunday 10am  Mass
Saturday 6.30pm  Vigil Mass
Tuesday and Friday 10am  Mass

OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR RC CHURCH

Is there a hollow irony that brings Easter Day 2018 on what is known as April Fool’s Day? If we go back over the centuries to that first Easter, we could put ourselves in the shoes of sad, compassionate women who trudge to the resting place of Christ’s body to anoint him, only to be confronted with what was surely a cruel joke. That Jesus had risen from the dead. How could that be? Of course, the disciples had previously heard what Jesus had predicted about his triumphal victory over death, but the message had not been heard; it had not in any way sunk in.

As we finish our own journey through Lent with the contrasting emotions of Holy Week, all so well embroidered into our liturgies, the spark of the fire at our Easter Vigil brings the light of redemption back into our lives. Easter is indeed a key time for spiritual renewal, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is real. Unlike the bereft and confused disciples, we have surely done more than listen – we have heard the Good News and want to try harder to bring it into our lives.

A few weeks ago, our new Parish Priest, Fr Richard Mway, was formally installed in both the Chipperfield and Abbots Langley parishes by Bishop Paul McAleenan. Though he has been with us since September last, this was our opportunity to welcome Fr Richard properly. We thank God for continuing support from the Salvatorian order which has continuously provided us with priests since the parish was properly established thirty years ago. Later in the year we will celebrate that anniversary in a consecration service led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Meanwhile, we greet April with the traditional joyful Easter words, Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!

Chipperfield News is a newspaper for the community of Chipperfield and the surrounding area. Articles are welcomed though are published at the discretion of the editors. While it is our intention that readers should find these of interest, any such contribution, whether or not it bears the author’s name, is published on the basis that the views contained therein may or may not reflect those of Chipperfield News and, in all such cases, are not endorsed by the newspaper. As such, Chipperfield News takes no responsibility or liability for the information in these articles.
THE GREAT WAR – MILITARY TRIBUNALS

At the outbreak of the Great War, Britain had long held a tradition of voluntary military service. Following his appointment as Secretary of State for War Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener called for volunteers to join his New Army, to augment the regulars. In the early days there was no shortage of men keen to volunteer to serve King and Country, including from Chipperfield. Although some 2.5 million men had volunteered by the end of 1915, the numbers were slowing, not helped as the realities and horrors of trench warfare became known. In 1916 the first Military Service Act became law, with the compulsory conscription of men. Local Military Tribunals were set up where employers and men could appeal on various grounds of hardship or no one else being available to do their work.

Walter J Saunders, dairy farmer and pig breeder of Rose Farm, Chipperfield, was successful in his appeal to the Hemel Hempstead Rural Tribunal, as was Walter Day who ran his laundry business from the flint cottage next to the village hall. William Bunyan who ran the local grocery store was successful after telling the tribunal that he had four brothers in the army and that his business had increased due to Lipton’s in Watford no longer making home deliveries due to the war. Ernest Waterhouse appealed on behalf of William Spiegelhalter, his plumber and water fitter, on the grounds of hardship on account of his surname. Although he was born and brought up in this country his late father had been an un-naturalised German.

Conscription caused great hardship on the local farms, which were still labour intensive and required farm labourers to assist with the milking, harvesting etc. The local paper mills also faced an uphill battle to retain sufficient men to continue their operations.

On the whole, most appeals to the tribunals were unsuccessful and the chairmen of the tribunals often gained fearful reputations. A sad case was that of Herbert Holliman of Chipperfield. In June 1916 he appealed to the local tribunal on the grounds that he was a widower with six children, four of whom were dependent on him. (One of his sons had been lost at the front.) Herbert was employed at Dickinson’s Mill at Apsley. At first his appeals were successful and he was granted temporary exemptions. In July 1917 his exemption ran out and he was forced to join up.

On 6 April 1918 Herbert Holliman, who served with The Queen’s Regiment, was killed in France by a shell while at a rest camp. His elderly mother was left to raise his orphaned children in Chapel Croft.

KINGS LANGLEY SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Kings Langley School is planning a 50th Anniversary Celebration of its Outdoor Education Centre.

Over 6,000 former students and friends have attended courses at the Outdoor Education Centre in Llaneglywys, Powys, Wales, now known as the Brecon Forest Farmhouse.

To celebrate fifty years of usage, the Charitable Trust which administers and maintains the farmhouse, is holding a massive reunion at the school on Saturday 30 June from 3pm until 9.30pm. Already, many people have shown interest and a steering group of past students and teachers has been planning the event since last September.

As well as the opportunity to meet old school friends, sustenance will be available from a licensed bar, a hog roast and other refreshment outlets. On the field, organised activities will be available for those who bring children and to raise funds there will be a Grand Draw with some fantastic prizes and a tombola. Sixth formers will be running tours of the new school building which many past students have yet to see. There will also be displays of memorabilia from the fifty years in Wales.

To support the Trust, in its efforts to improve and maintain the farmhouse, there will be a small entry fee to the event and the organisers would prefer everyone to buy tickets before the day, on line, from; forestfarmhouse50.eventbrite.co.uk. This will enable the bar and hog roast to be suitably stocked once numbers are established.

More information regarding the farmhouse and its availability can be found on the website; www.breconforestfarmhouse.org.uk

Ian Hall, the Chairman of the Trust will take enquiries and offers of sponsorship for the event. Please contact him on 0800 6891782.

CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

At our Spring Concert we performed works by Bach, Vivaldi and Mozart to a full capacity audience at a new venue, The King’s Church in Amersham. This is a very modern building which has excellent facilities for both choir and audience and provided a good back drop for a very successful concert.

The Vivaldi Gloria is a joyful hymn of praise divided into movements which range from festive brilliance to profound sadness. The choir perfectly captured the different moods of the work with strong choral singing, supported by the excellent orchestra and, notably, tender, lovely counter melodies played variously by the violin and the oboe.

The Magnificat is one of Bach’s best loved choral works, full of rousing choruses and beautiful melodies. The choir achieved the sense of exultation which runs throughout the Magnificat and conveyed the sense of modesty and awe as the audience experienced Bach’s sublime setting of these joyous words. The choruses are interspersed with some wonderful solo pieces which were sung beautifully by Flur Wyn (1st soprano), Nazan Fikret (2nd soprano) Rosemary Clifford (Mezzo Soprano), Alex Haigh (Tenor) and Ben Rowarth (Baritone).

Bach’s Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring and an exhilarating performance by Flur Wyn of Mozart’s Exsultate completed this well balanced and very enjoyable evening of music.

Our next concert on Saturday 16 June at St Paul’s Church, will include Rutter’s Requiem and songs and music to commemorate the end of the First World War.

John Morrish

CHIPPERFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Our Library will be open on Tuesday 17 April, but NOT the first Tuesday in April as it is the Easter holidays. We are then open in May on Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 15th.

Please come and check us out. 3 - 4.30pm St Paul’s Parish Room. All books are FREE.
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A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER

What a difference a week makes; last week we were in the grip of the ‘Beast from the East’ but today, in a burst of bright sunshine, the daffodils are beginning to flower and the woodpeckers are drumming. A mistle thrush is perching high in the branches of a poplar tree and singing its heart out. They are often known as the ‘storm cock’ and are always the first to start singing but the snow and cold wind put even this hardy fellow off.

I still had a few apples in store so I put a few out for the birds while the weather was so cold. In no time at all, a fieldfare and a redwing appeared. My mum had a front row seat as they were just in front of her window. Then a song thrush came searching under the wall shrubs and found a big snail, so for a few minutes she had three members of the thrush family in a line, as if on the pages of a bird book!

As I am writing this, in front of the fire, just on dusk, the huge fox we have called White Tip has just had a look in my patio window! He is a very bold chap, not at all afraid of Ted, my dog. Ted does chase him, but he does just enough to get away. He can slip through the park fencing at the back of the wildlife pond but he knows Ted can’t so he stops on the other side and watches poor Ted run up and down the fence. With the snow on the ground I could see that he had been into the back porch. A couple of weeks ago I left three eggs there and they disappeared; I can guess where. He is in great condition so he is not going hungry, but it a good job my hens are safe in the old veg garden. I do love a nice boiled egg!   

Wendy Bathurst

APRIL IN YOUR GARDEN

Spring flowers, daffodils and early tulips are in flower now and the gardens are looking good. With a bank holiday at the beginning of the month, we can get out in the garden and get on with sowing and planting.

Vegetables and fruit. As soon as possible sow broad beans, cabbage, cauliflower, beet, Brussels sprouts, peas, leeks, turnips and swede in the garden on well prepared seed beds adding Growmore or Vitax Q4 fertilizer. Make sure that root crops, such as carrots and parsnips, are not grown on soil that was manured during the winter. Plant potatoes and earth up the rows as they grow. Sow herbs, except basil, and make successional sowings of salads, such as radish and lettuce. It is now too late to plant bare root raspberries but container grown soft fruit, strawberries and rhubarb can be planted. Protect flowers on fruit trees if we should get late frosts. Hoe regularly to keep weeds down. Plant onion sets and shallots and also broad beans and brassicas which have been raised in the glasshouse. It is a good time to plant container apple, plum and pear trees.

Flowers and shrubs. Plant up hanging baskets and containers under cover so that they are ready to put out in the garden during May. Plant in the garden hardy bedding plants, such as bellis, antirrhinums, pansies and violas but leave the tender plants until well into May. Plant new perennials and lift and divide old plants and provide supports for the taller growing plants. Prune the roses and spray with something like Roseclear to keep blackspot, rust and mildew away. Feed the roses and shrubs with Toprose fertiliser and use an ericaceous feed on azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons. Early flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, should be pruned immediately after they have flowered. Once daffodils have flowered they should be deadheaded and fed but the leaves must be left until they die down on there own. Plant lilies, gladioli and nerines and also tubers of dahlias and cannas.

The greenhouse. Keep sowing bedding plants and put up the plug plants. Sow tomatoes, marrows, courgettes, peppers and runner beans so that the plants will be ready for planting outside towards the end of May. Tomatoes and cucumbers that are to be grown in the greenhouse should be planted without delay. See the huge selection tomatoes, marrows, courgettes, peppers and runner beans so that the plants will be ready for planting outside towards the end of May. Tomatoes and cucumbers that are to be grown in the greenhouse should be planted without delay. See the huge selection which should be planted up in the greenhouse now so that they can get well established before putting outside in May. Use Swell-gel in the compost to help retain moisture.

Lawn and garden. Grass is growing well so mow the lawn regularly but never cut too short, particularly in dry weather. Apply a good fertilizer, plus weedkiller and mosskiller. Now is a good time to turf new grass areas or to sow grass seed. Use a lawn sprinkler on new grass areas and then put it away. Once established, lawns do not need to be watered so that the grass is encouraged to send its roots well down into the soil. Carry on tidying up the garden. Put all old plant materials on to the compost heap adding Garotta to help the rottling process, but destroy roots of ground elder and bindweed. Put down mulches to help conserve moisture and keep weeds down.

Garden events. The Royal Horticultural Society have their Orchid Show and Plant Fair at Vincent Square, Westminster, on 5-7 April; Cardiff Flower Show on 13-15 April; Malvern Spring Festival 10-13 May; Chelsea Flower Show 22-26 May and Charterhouse Flower Show 6-10 June. For details and to book tickets go to rhs.org.uk/shows or phone 08449 559664. The Sarratt Spring Show is on 7 April and the Bovingdon Show on 14 April. Rosie Hardy, Chelsea Gold Medallist, is giving a talk on Spring Flowering Perennials in the Parish Room at 7.30pm on 17 April.

Terry Simmonds

MANOR HOUSE BARN SUMMER CONCERT

We are pleased to announce that there will be a summer concert in the Barn on Saturday 21 July at 7.30pm. There will be an overall theme, 'Great music, Great Lyrics', including songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein and similar shows. There will also be some top WW1 songs to mark the end of the Great War. The concert will feature some of our regular stars including Rosie Clifford and Alex Haigh and will be accompanied by an orchestra conducted by Keith Beniston. More information will be published as plans develop but the format of the evening will follow a similar pattern to previous years. For now, please make a note of the date. Tickets will be available from mid-June.

As always, the concert will be held by courtesy of the Tapner family. Rehearsals will be held in the Barn; dates to be published in May.

“I am delighted that this popular event will be held again this year.” Keith Beniston

Chipperfield Care

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Whether this is short or long term please call our help line and we will try to help.

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Can you help us?

Our help line is run by volunteers, our Duty Officers, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. They then contact our Drivers to arrange the safe transport of our clients to and from their requested destination.

Could you volunteer as a Driver or Duty Officer for a few hours a month?

If you can help in any way, please call Patricia Harrison on 01923 261595 or Mark Jarrad on 01923 268910.
For information about an event, club or class contact the appropriate hall booking agent listed below or visit the village website, www.chipperfield.org.uk/organisations.

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The May issue is published on 26 April, the last date for copy is Friday 6 April.
Articles or Advertisements are welcome if sent by e-mail or as an attached MS Word doc to: editors@chipperfield.org.uk (editorial) - alan.warner91017@btinternet.com (advertising)
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Chipperfield News is printed by GPS Printworks. Unit 9 The Wenta Business Centre, Colne Way, Watford. WD24 7ND. T: 01923 242128 E: sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk

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