

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE July 2019

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Since the announcement of our new council line up, due to unforeseen circumstances Jenny Folkard has unfortunately stepped down as Vice Chairman. Jenny is still on the council and will continue with her other roles for the Council. We are pleased to announce that Ann Gihon has been elected as Vice Chairman at the June meeting.

We are also pleased to welcome Janine Kelly and Robert Folkard who were co-opted onto the Parish Council.

ALLOTMENTS

Sadly, there have been a few thefts from the allotments, so the Parish Council have decided to close off the gateways along Mason Lane. The only access onto the site will be from the main road; the gate will be padlocked, and allotment holders will be issued with keys.

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

We discussed at the last meeting that we would like to tidy up the village especially the verges on the approaches to the village. Unfortunately, Somerset County Council are no longer cutting back the verges unless the vegetation obstructs a visibility splay, so the Parish Council have agreed get the verges on the main approaches to the village cut back.

The Parish Council decided to get some planters with a display of seasonal flowers at the boundaries and at various points throughout the village and, it was suggested that the village organisations may like to sponsor a planter. Councillors will be approaching the village organisations but if anyone else would like to contribute/sponsor please let us know.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

In the last magazine we asked for volunteers to reinstate the Speedwatch team as there had been some concerns as to whether the 20mph speed limit was working and we would like to thank the resident who is willing to head this up. However, in order to get the CSW up and running we do need at least another 3 – 4 volunteers so if anyone willing to volunteer their time we would appreciate your assistance.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Yes, we know it's early!! But make a note in your diary to join us for the annual tree lighting ceremony. This year it will be held on Friday 6th December at 6.30pm. More information near the time!

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY – 8TH MAY 2020

As many of you will be aware, it will be the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday, 8th May next year. On this day in 1945 Winston Churchill announced the end of World War II and towns, cities and villages throughout the UK will be commemorating this momentous event over three days, starting on the Friday at 3pm when that famous radio broadcast was made. Formal events are being planned by the SSAFA (the Armed Forces Charity) across the UK (and abroad) and Friday, 8th May has been designated the formal Bank Holiday in the UK so that as many people as possible can take part in these celebrations.

The Parish Council would like to hold our own village event on that Friday and invite each and every organisation, club and venue in Montacute to be part of this. We would like to form a working party headed by the parish council to plan this special event and would like to ask anyone interested to join us.

The formal events planned by SSAFA across the UK include tea parties, church services and the ringing of church bells, exhibitions, a united village "toast", pipers and lone buglers etc., so that gives us some initial ideas to build on and add our own. Perhaps we could "go back in time" – for example dress in 1940's style and play games from that era? And as well as respectfully remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, it's all about celebrating peace too, so it would be good to have some entertainments and laughter. Lots to think about, from quiet commemoration to all out fun and enjoyment!

The first step would be for us to get this working party together to share all our ideas on the sort of things we could do, and how we might organise it as a village. Let's all work together to organise the best ever Celebration our village has ever seen and do Montacute proud! Please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors if you are interested in helping plan this event.

CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There have been a couple of occasions where youths have been drinking on the recreation ground. Unfortunately, they have been smashing their bottles and the broken glass has been strewn around the grounds which is not always easy to see. These incidents have been reported to the police and we have been asked if further incidents can be reported. We would appreciate your assistance with this matter by reporting directly to the police 101 number. Children play in this area and people walk their dogs and we wish to avoid any accidents.

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Village Hall except for August and December. Parish Council meetings are open to the press and public so residents are welcome to come along and listen to what we have to say. There is also a short public session at the beginning of every meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held a week early on the 8th July 2019 and we will be changing the time to 7.15pm.

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