

# HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 2022

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## Latest News from the Parish Council

When the last newsletter was published the Pandemic was easing and something like normality was being promised. Little did we know that around the corner was a direct threat to our very existence with the economic, social and political fallout caused by the Russian aggression. The problems faced by us in comparison to those in the Ukraine are in a minor league, but we do our best to maintain good order.

In recent weeks Di and I have collected a significant quantity of glass bottles, cans and wrappers from the lane towards the church. Many were exposed when the verge was cut back, but the concern is that someone may be depositing their bottles whilst using a vehicle, with the implications for drink-driving.

Replacement signs have been installed to remind dog walkers of their responsibilities as the number of deposits has been on the increase. This is disappointing and implicates all dog owners, when I know that most are in full compliance with the law. It is down to all of us to ensure that owners pick up.



## Village Green

This time of year is when the green looks its best as the cowslips burst through and the other flowers blossom at the tree roots. This year will see a programme of maintenance to ensure it looks tidy whilst encouraging flowers suitable for the pollinators. Further work will be undertaken to try and increase the diversity of plants. Having taken advice from a good friend of mine who's knowledge is widespread after his career with the BBC and a life time of study, the suggestion is for the use of plug plants of a few species, rather than a blanket approach. More research is required to take this forward and anyone wishing to be involved should let me know. 'Many hands' and all that .....

## Queen's Jubilee

To mark this remarkable achievement it is proposed to hold a traditional street party on the Sunday for the residents of Baughton and Hill Croome. We have been offered the chance to use an area at Baughton Hall Farm and by now you will have received the flyer. To get the party started, Di has asked for volunteers to come together to sort the details and awaits responses.

At a time when there is little to cheer about, here is a chance to celebrate a unique occasion.

## Traffic Matters

Nobody can have failed to see the progress of the A38 island project. The weather has been relatively kind and the scheme is on schedule. In recent weeks the disruption to traffic has been minimal, but it is important to realise what lies ahead. As the arms of the new island are completed and linked together there will be a number of closures and the use of traffic lights will increase. Whilst all festival organisers have been notified of this, we will undoubtedly face congestion from time to time during the summer.

Once completed I am sure the benefits will outweigh the inconvenience.

Another scheme that has recently started is the work on the replacement sewer system. Most of the work is within the field boundaries and road closures are not expected, but the work is scheduled for 3 months.

In recent weeks I have been in contact with the local police team, who have a new sergeant—Sgt Perkins. He has recently joined the team and has a very proactive approach.

The 'Local Policing Charter' provides for communities to highlight issues that they would like to have tackled and our priority has been the speed through the village. Whilst it is difficult to carry out enforcement due to the geography of the A4104 this does not mean nothing can be done.

The proposal is for a more targeted regime to tackle speed and other driving issues, including unlicensed and uninsured vehicles during the coming months. I look forward to being able to report an increase in activity in our community and any feedback will be welcomed.

Of course, it is important that we all comply with the speed limit ourselves to ensure that we do not become 'victims' of our own campaign!

## Bird-Friendly Crops

Anyone walking down the lane towards the church during the winter cannot have failed to see the huge flocks of small birds flying in and around the crops. The Cooks' have planted a bird-friendly mix and the results have been astounding.



The linnets, chaffinches and sparrows have been joined by the occasional brambling and the aerial displays have been a delight to witness. We do well for bird variety, including wheatear and stonechat and the return of the whitethroats is only weeks away.

Combined with the lapwing, herons and egrets, a walk can always bring a surprise, highlighted a while back as a peregrine feasted on its lunch.

This planting has shown its worth and I would like to offer my thanks for the foresight in following this route and look forward to seeing how it develops.

## Parish Council Elections

It my understanding that the next election for local Parish Councils will be in 2023. There is currently a campaign to encourage people to come forward to serve their community and information is being prepared nationally to make potential candidates more aware of the role and responsibility of Councillors. At a time when there is a downward flow of responsibilities to a more local level, it is more important than ever that Parish Councils reflect their community and that there is a social mix of age, sex and belief. We are fortunate in that we serve the community without political bias so it removes one potential difficulty.

It is recognised that the 'average' councillor is white, middle-aged and male. There is fundamentally no problem - I would say that! - but this does not guarantee that all views are expressed or considered.

Anyone wishing to stand or consider a future as a councillor is welcome to speak with me to obtain an insight into the role.

## Earls Croome Village Hall

The hall is now available again for hire and events are being planned.

The Jubilee Weekend has the quiz and the hog roast to look forward to and you will have received the information in the last few days.

The Trustees are always on the look out for volunteers to help with the activities and the running of the hall. Anyone wishing to help is encouraged to step forward.

## Upcoming events

### Tuesday 26th April - 7.30pm at the Village Hall

**Parish Council Finance Meeting** - to finalise and sign off the Annual Accounts for 2021-22.

### Tuesday 3rd May - 7.00pm at the Village Hall

**Annual Parish Meeting** - the opportunity for the Parishioners to meet and discuss any topics of their choosing. An open meeting to be minuted by the Parish Clerk.

To be followed at **7.30pm** by the

### **Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council**

Everyone is welcome to come along. We do not bite and the involvement of the community is crucial to the wellbeing and success of the Council.

*The Annual Accounts will be available for public scrutiny for a period between 13th June and 22nd July 2022, by arrangement with the Clerk. The main elements will be published in accordance with the regulations on the Parish website.*

For any enquiries or matters requiring attention please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council as below.

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